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# MEMOIRS OF THE

## DUTCH Trade

In all the  
STATES, KINGDOMS,  
and EMPIRES in the  
World.

### S H E W I N G

Its First Rise and prodigious Progress: After what Manner the *Dutch* manage, and carry on their Trade, their Dominions and Government in the *Indies*.

By what Means they have made themselves Masters of all the Trade of *Europe*: What Goods and Merchandise are proper for Maritime Traffick, whence they are to be had, and what Gain and Profit they produce.

A WORK very necessary for all Merchants, and others concerned in Trade.

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*Done from the French now Printed at  
Amsterdam.*

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*circa 1700.*

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T H E  
A U T H O R ' S  
P R E F A C E.

SOME Persons of Honour and Distinction, whom I ought by no means to disoblige, having engaged me to write something upon Trade, which might give them a general Idea of it as it regards Politicks: I believed nothing would better answer that End, than to give them a true Notion of the Trade of the *Dutch*, which has diffused it self over all Parts of the habitable World, and to shew that it is on Account of Trade that their Republick has such a considerable Rank amongst the States of *Europe*.

This was what moved me to undertake this small Treatise; and indeed I write the more willingly on this Subject of Commerce, because there is nothing, in my Judgment, seems to be so little understood in *France*, especially by Persons in publick Employments and high Posts, either in the Courts of Judicature, the

Cabinet, or the Treasury. However, it is certain, Commerce is of so great Importance; that I make no Difficulty to aver, that according to the present Conduct of the several States of *Europe*, there are very few things in Government which deserve more our Attention than this Article of Commerce.

To be convinced of this Truth, we have nothing else to do, but consider the Difference there is between those Countries where Trade flourishes, and those Countries who have none. If we will only remember, that *England* and *Holland*, which (by Reason of their Situation) make so great a Figure in the Affairs of *Europe*, regulate their principal Interest always with an Eye to their Commerce; and this was the principal Motive which caused the last Wars; (that is, the Security of their Trade,) we shall be entirely satisfied, that Commerce ought to have no mean Place in modern Politicks.

Besides these Considerations (which are particular ones in relation to the present State of *Europe*) there are yet others more general, which ought no less to excite all Princes and their Ministers, and all those who have any Share in Government, to know thoroughly the Nature of Commerce, and the Maxims which are necessary to its being well carried on and managed; since (as *Bocalin* very well observes) Agriculture and Commerce are the  
Breasts

Breasts which suckle and nourish the State ; Truths which ought to be engraven in Letters of Gold in all the Apartments of Kings, Princes and Statesmen, to induce them to consider Tradesmen and Merchants according to their Merits. To these I shall add, that a great State cannot flourish, or indeed be at Peace, if it has not a great Trade ; for 'tis only by means of Trade it can draw to its self Riches and Plenty, without which it can undertake nothing advantageous, either to aid and assist its Allies, or extend its Limits. The great *Gustavus Adolphus* was so well convinc'd of this Truth, that tho' War was his predominant Passion, yet he very seriously apply'd himself to make Trade flourish in his Dominions, and was us'd to say, *That to put his Soldiers Valour to the Proof, he was often obliged to have recourse to his Merchants.* My Lord *Bacon*, who was one of the greatest Politicians of his time, look'd upon Merchants to be so necessary, that he compared them in the State, to the Blood in a Man's Body, *Which if it did not flourish, says he, a Man may possibly have some of his Limbs very strong, but he would be sure to have empty Veins and a lean Habit of Body. Qui nisi flouruerit, potest quidem aliquos Artus habere Robustos, sed Venas vacuas & Habitum Corporis macrum.* It may be proved from Examples almost as old as the World, that States

flourish in Proportion to Commerce ; as we may gather from what the Holy Scriptures teach us, in relation to the *Tyrians* and *Sidonians* : But we need not run so far back into Antiquity for Examples ; we need only consider the surprizing Changes which Trade has caused in our Days ( if I may so say ) amongst our Neighbours.

The Power of *England* was once so inconsiderable, before the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, according to *Cambden's* Observation, that her Predecessors ( nay even her own Father ) when they had a mind to put a Fleet to Sea, were obliged to hire Ships from *Hamburg*, *Lubeck*, *Dantzick*, *Genoa* and *Venice* : But after the *English*, by the Care of that able Princess, apply'd themselves to Traffick, and by reason of the great Protection she gave to Merchants, it flourished in *Muscovy*, in all the Dominions of the Grand Seignior, upon the Coasts of *Africa*, the *East* ( or rather the *West* ) *Indies*, and in almost all other Parts of the World ; that Queen soon became capable of maintaining her self a great Naval Force, which at last became the Terror of the Ocean and the Narrow Seas, which made that Nation go and attack, more than once, the Power of *Philip* the Second, not only in the New World, but even on the very Coasts of *Spain*. In short, that powerful Queen followed so well those Maxims of securing and encreasing the  
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## *The Author's Preface.*

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the Commerce of all her Subjects, and their Traffick on the footing of her Naval Force, that she laid those solid Foundations for the encrease of Commerce and Maritime Power of *England*, two things to which that Nation owes to this Day all its Strength and Grandeur.

But nothing can come up to what the *Dutch* have done by Commerce ; and it will ever be a Subject of Astonishment and Wonder, that a handful of Merchants, that fled into a little Country which produced scarce enough to subsist its new Inhabitants, should beat down the exorbitant Power of the *Spanish* Monarchy, and make that King sue for Peace ; that they should lay the Foundation of so mighty a Republick, which we see at present in some manner to hold the Balance between all the other Powers of *Europe* ; but what is most wonderful, and what ought most to surprize us, is, that the Wars never interrupted their Trade, and that it was in the very heat of War that they laid the Foundations of that of the *East-Indies* and the Coasts of *Africa* ; and that they should trade with their Enemies, the *Spaniards*, in spite of all the Precautions they took to the contrary, which very much contributed to the Support of the War.

The States General of the *United Provinces*, seeing the Industry of these Merchants was of so great Service to the Republick, protected

tested and favoured them in every thing; and it may be truly said, that without their Assistance they would never have been able to put so glorious an End to the War as they did. We see by this what Advantage Commerce is to a State, when it is regulated with Prudence, and by able Merchants, who have all Protection, and no Constraint.

But what need we go out of *France* for Examples, to show how important Commerce is to a Nation: We need only consider the great Things that have been done under the glorious Reign of our Great Monarch, and the almost infinite Sums which have been disbursed, as well to support the War against all the Powers of *Europe* for above 30 Years, as during the Peace. Could one ever have imagined this could have been done, without that prodigious Quantity of Money, which Trade, especially that with *Spain*, brought into *France*? For we have no Mines to supply us. What then would have been the Consequence, had Commerce been protected and encouraged in *France* as it ought to have been? I doubt not but in such Case we might have said of *France*, what the Holy Scripture said of *Jerusalem*, that in the Days of Solomon Gold and Silver were as common as Stones: If *England*, by means of the Woollen Manufactures, and by the vent of her Tin, Lead, and Sea-Coal, has amassed such Riches, what might one not have believed



believed *France* would have gained ; which, besides her Manufactures of Wool, Silk, Linnen, Hats, Paper, and many other Things, which are eagerly sought after by all the World, supplies other Countries with Wines, Brandies, Wheat, Salt, Oil, and Fruits of all sorts, for immense Sums. This Abundance and great Plenty of our Merchandize, so necessary and useful to our Neighbours, made my Lord *Bellasis* say, *That if God should one Day make the Turks know what they could do at Sea, and the French how far they might extend their Commerce, all Europe would soon fall a Conquest to those Powers.*

I shall only give one Instance more, to shew how nothing but Commerce can enrich a Kingdom ; let us therefore turn our Eyes to *Spain*, and it is certain, that there is no Nation in the World has so little Gold and Silver as the *Spaniards*, tho' those two Metals grow in such prodigious Quantities in their Dominions ; other Nations, notwithstanding, are better provided therewith, on account of the great Vent their Commodities have in *Spain*, and the dependent Kingdoms, which have Occasion for them ; and, in short, that great Monarchy has fallen to Decay, purely for having neglected Commerce, and establishing several Manufactures in Dominions of so vast and large extent. It was this Negligence which was one of the principal Springs of

the Riches of *France*; and while *France* traded with *Spain*, she never wanted Gold or Silver, not even during those long and difficult Wars. Let us only look back and consider what Condition *France* was in by the *Pyrenean* Treaty, notwithstanding a long War of above twenty five Years, and all those she has since sustained, even to our Days. It is much to be wished, we would open our Eyes soon enough, and take Notice of a Matter of so much Importance, and so necessary as Commerce, and endeavour to know how to take such Measures as may bring to a good Issue that, on which, in some manner, depends the Happiness of all his Majesty's Subjects, and the Grandeur of the Nation.

We *Frenchmen* have been reproached (and perhaps not without some reason) that the Genius of our Nation was not proper for a foreign Commerce, being quickly weary of all Undertakings that require a solid and continued Application. But without deciding this Matter, I shall content my self to say, that there have been, and yet are in *France*, Persons of very good Abilities and Experience, necessary for carrying on a vast Trade: Out of several, I shall only mention *Jaques Couer*, Superintendent of the Finances, or (in the Language of those Times) Moneyer to King *Charles* the Seventh. This Man, who was born at *Bourges*, being entirely addicted to  
Foreign

Foreign Trade, in a time when scarce any one meddled with it in *France*, got prodigious Wealth, which he employ'd to the best Advantage in the Service of the King his Master, and the Support of the State. *Matthew Coucy* an Historian, his Contemporary, speaks of him after this manner: ‘ The King (*says he*) had  
‘ in his Kingdom a Man of mean Extraction,  
‘ whose Name was *Jaques Couer*, who by  
‘ his Sense, Vigilance, and good Conduct, so  
‘ ordered it, as to undertake trading in Com-  
‘ modities of the highest Value, which he still  
‘ continued to do, notwithstanding his being  
‘ made Moneyer to King *Charles*, in which  
‘ Office he continued a long while in great  
‘ Power and Prosperity: He had under him  
‘ many Clerks and Factors, who had the Care  
‘ of these Commodities, to distribute them  
‘ thro’ all Christian States and Kingdoms. He  
‘ had at Sea a great many large Vessels, main-  
‘ tained at his own Expence and Charge,  
‘ which traded to the *Levant*, *Egypt* and  
‘ *Barbary*, to freight themselves with all sorts  
‘ of rich and fine Commodities and Merchan-  
‘ dize, by Leave of the Sultan and Turks,  
‘ paying them some little Duty as an Acknow-  
‘ ledgment. He caused to be brought from  
‘ those Countries, Gold and Silver Stuffs, Silks  
‘ of all Sorts and Colours, Furs for Men and  
‘ Women of several Kinds; as Martins and  
‘ Sables, &c. and other excellent Curiosities,  
‘ which

‘ which Goods he sold by his Commissaries  
 ‘ and Factors at the *Hotel Royale*, in all the  
 ‘ principal Cities of the Kingdom, and in fo-  
 ‘ reign Courts, where the People, surprized  
 ‘ with Admiration, soon bought them up at a  
 ‘ good Price. He had at least three or four  
 ‘ Hundred Commissaries or Factors at his  
 ‘ Command, and gained himself more in one  
 ‘ Year, than all the Merchants of the King-  
 ‘ dom. He was in Possession of the Office  
 ‘ of Superintendant of the Finances, when  
 ‘ King *Charles* undertook the Conquest of  
 ‘ *Normandy* in the Year 1449 ; of which  
 ‘ Conquest this famous Merchant was the  
 ‘ chief Cause ; for he was the first that en-  
 ‘ couraged the King to that great Underta-  
 ‘ king, and furnished him with an Army, by  
 ‘ offering him several Milions, which was  
 ‘ executed after the Manner as the King best  
 ‘ liked, and for which he was highly applau-  
 ‘ ded and complimented by all the Princes  
 ‘ and Lords of the Court ; and yet for all  
 ‘ that Expence, his Wealth was almost inva-  
 ‘ luable.

Heaven could once have given us, and yet  
 might have given us another *Jaquez Couer*,  
 and then we should have entertained greater  
 Hopes than ever to bring the Trade of *France*  
 to its highest Pitch, and make our Nation the  
 most flourishing in the World. The Mer-  
 chants of *France*, to accomplish this, want  
 only

only an experienced Leader ; a Person of much Knowledge, one that has a great Foresight, an enterprizing Genius, and continual Application and Perseverance ; a Person of great Credit and Power, that he may protect those who traffick under him, and are his Commissioners, in whatever Place of the World.

It was by such Means as these, that the *Dutch* have carried Commerce to the highest Degree, as may be seen in the following Memoirs, which I desire those who will give themselves the trouble to read, would not think to be the simple Speculation of a Man of Letters, but the true Sentiments of the most able Merchants of *Holland*, whom one ought ever to look upon as the true Oracles of Commerce ; it was amongst them chiefly that I learned what I know of this rich and important Subject ; and I seriously declare, that after having seen the Greatness of their Trade, and the considerable Influence that this famous Republick has had for many Years past in all the Affairs of *Europe*, I was entirely convinc'd, that Commerce is one of the principal Parts of Policy, which made me resolved to study very seriously an Affair, to which before I apply'd my self out of pure Curiosity : In short, I resolv'd to be instructed as much as possible, not only in the Trade of *Holland*, but also in that of the *English*, *Portuguese* and other Nations ; and I was the more invited to this, because it



is very visible that we have failed very much in our Projects of Commerce, in not well knowing and considering the Nature of that of our Neighbours; several Voyages, that I have happily made to several Parts of *Europe*, have much contributed to make me know their way of Trade, having had the Happiness to converse with Persons of the greatest Ability where I have been. Besides, I have spared no Pains or Cost to have good Memoirs, and the following Treatise will be a sufficient Proof of what I say.

These various and rare Truths, which I have with much Pains and Expence acquired the Knowledge of, gave me Courage to put them into Writing, and treat of a Subject so little understood. If I find these Memoirs are well received, I may be induced to make considerable Additions, and present the World with others relating to the Commerce of other Nations.

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O F T H E  
C H A P T E R S

*Contained in this BOOK.*

C H A P. I.

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End of the last Century, that it is almost  
entirely managed, and carried on by the  
Dutch.

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# MEMOIRS OF THE DUTCH TRADE

In all Parts of the WORLD.

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## CHAP. I.

*What Condition the Trade of Europe was in from the Year 1000, to the End of the last Century, that it is almost entirely managed, and carried on by the Dutch.*

**T**HE present Trade of this powerful Republick being formed out of *that* of many Nations, it will not be improper briefly to observe the several Changes the Trade or Commerce of *Europe* underwent, and on what Footing it stood, at the time the *Dutch* began to form themselves into a Common-Wealth.

It is about Six Hundred Years ago, that Trade, which was almost ruined by those con-  
B tinual

tinual Wars that troubled *Europe*, began to revive and flourish under the *Italians* and *Germans*. The former of these, after the Ruine of the *Roman Empire*, went into the *Levant* for Spices, Druggs, Silks, and all the other valuable Commodities those Eastern Climes produced, to dispose of, and sell them again in all Parts of *Europe*. *Alexandria*, and some other Ports of *Syria*, were the Places where this Trade was principally carried on, and which were supplied from time to time, with all these Sorts of Commodities, by the *Asiatics*, both by Land and Sea, and by the *Persians* and *Arabians*, by means of the Red Sea; and this was the constant Practice both of *Greeks* and *Romans*, especially since the Reign of *Ptolemy* surnamed *Philadelphus*, as I have elsewhere discoursed of more at large, in my Treatise Of the Commerce of the Ancients.

The *Italians* having added to their *Levant* Trade the Manufactures of Silk which the People of *Europe* were very fond of, made such considerable Progress therein, as to lay up immense Riches, by means of which they formed those powerful Republicks, some of which subsist to this very Day, with great Splendour and Magnificence, the happy Effects of their ancient, and long established Commerce.

The *Italian* Trade however, properly speaking, was only what remained of that which the *Romans* formerly drove with *Asia*, but that  
of

of *Germany* owed its Rise entirely to the *Italians*.

Towards the End of the twelfth Century, the Towns of *Germany* situated on the *Baltick* Sea, and those great Rivers that run into it, were famous for their trading all over the neighbouring Provinces ; but as this Trade was often disturbed by Pirates, and those frequent Wars that at that time troubled the North, they united themselves together for their mutual Defence, to secure and protect their Commerce, from what might disturb, or annoy it for the future. These Towns thus united, and which increased to about 72, or thereabouts, were called *Hanse Towns*, from the *German* Word *Amsee*, or *Ansee*, which signifies *upon the Sea*, and their Inhabitants called *Osterlins*, that is, *Easterlings*, Names afterwards very well known all over *Europe* ; and these Towns for a long while commanded all the Trade and Navigation of the North, which at that time were almost entirely unknown to the other People of *Europe*, except the *Italians*. These things made them so powerful, that for a long time they were the sole Arbiters of Peace and War, all over the North. But this Trade, which was for two Centuries successively the most flourishing that ever was, began to decay about the Year 1500, on Account of their falling out with one another, and of which mutual Divisions the *English* and *Dutch* made such considerable

Advantage (especially the latter) that it fell almost entirely into their Hands, and has continued so ever since, notwithstanding all the vigorous Efforts these *Hanse* Towns have made from time to time, to retrieve it. So true it is, that when Commerce has once changed its Course, it is the most difficult thing in the World to bring it back again.

By this one may see the State and Condition of the Trade of *Europe*, during the last Age, and how it was divided between the *Italians* and *Germans*. But the *Portugueze*, towards the End of the Fifteenth Century, having found out a new Passage to the *East-Indies*, by the *Cape of Good Hope*, all the Trade which the *Venetians* drove to the *East-Indies* for Spices, and other Commodities of the East, soon fell into their Hands; so that *Lisbon* became the chief Magazine, or Store-House, for these Goods, whence the rest of all *Europe* might be conveniently furnished and supplied. Soon after the *Portugueze* made the Discovery of the *East Indies*, *Cadiz* and *Seville* were full of all the rich and valuable Commodities the new World (or *America*) produced. Gold and Silver growing more common in *Europe*, and Navigation every Day coming to a greater Perfection, Trade grew more lively and flourishing, and from that time all Nations in *Europe* strove to trade with the *Portugueze* and



and *Spaniards*, whom they looked upon as the sole Masters of Gold and Silver.

The Commodities of the North were found of extream Necessity to the People of *Europe*, who lived towards the South; for besides Wheat and other Grain, they had from thence other Commodities, as Materials proper for building Ships, Navigation, and the like; and the People of the North, on the other Hand, stood as much in need of the Commodities of the South, as Wine, Salt, Oil, &c. But then the Voyage from the *Baltick* to the *Mediterranean*, being very long, and full of Difficulties, (which yet have since been found not to be insuperable) the advantageous and happy Situation of the Ports of *Flanders* between the North and the South; the Manufacturies of Linnen and Woollen Cloth, which flourished in those Parts since the tenth Century, together with the free Fairs of these Towns, tempted the Merchants both of the North and South to set up their Store-Houses, or Magazines for Goods, at *Bruges*, and afterwards at *Antwerp*, by means of which the Exchange of Goods with each other, was carried on with greater Ease and Conveniency, and Half the Expence and Trouble of the Voyage entirely saved.

The great Trade and Manufactures of the Low Countries made *Antwerp* indisputably the most considerable Town in the World for  
Wealth

Wealth and Commerce : But as the Trade of *Amsterdam* is entirely owing to the Ruin of *Antwerp*, it will not be amiss to look a little farther back, the better to discover the true Origin of the Commerce and Manufactures of the Low Countries, which were once so famous throughout the whole World.

*Cæsar* observes in his Commentaries, that the People of the Low Countries were very laborious and industrious, both for Invention and Imitation. His Words are, *Est summæ genus solertia, atque ad ad omnia imitanda quæ a quoquo traduntur aptissimum.* Lib. 7. These People always were, and are to this very Day, the same as they were in *Cæsar's* time ; and it must be own'd, that they have brought the Art of Weaving to its highest Perfection, not to mention several others for which the World is indebted to them. It is said the *Flemings* were the first of the Northern People that made all Sorts of Woollen and Linnen Cloths, their Country yielding the finest Flax in the World, and *England* producing the most excellent and best of Wooll. *Baldwin* surnamed the Young, Count of *Flanders*, contributed very much to the Advancement of his Subjects Commerce, by setting up about the Year 960, free Fairs in several Towns of his Dominions, which drew thither vast Numbers from the neighbouring Provinces, who came to furnish themselves

with



with these Commodities, and indeed they dealt for vast Quantities, there being no Duty, or Custom to be paid for any Goods exported thence. This Woollen and Linnen Trade, which at first began in *France* and *Germany*, very much encreased for three Centuries; during all which time nothing was more flourishing than the Trade of *Flanders*.

The Successors of *Baldwin* having laid several Duties, or Customs, on these free Fairs, and the *Flemish* Manufactures, to raise Money in order to defray the Expences they were at, in several Wars with *France*, was the real Cause that the Woollen and Linnen Cloth-Workers, whose Numbers were almost infinite, made several cruel Insurrections in *Ghent*, in the Year 1301. And others of these Workmen, who lived in the open Country, finding but little Shelter there in War time, went away in great Numbers to *Tillemont* and *Louvain*, from whence they dispersed afterwards into several Parts of *Brabant*.

The Dukes of *Brabant*, one would have imagined, might have taken Warning by the ill Conduct of the *Flemings*, which was attended with so many Inconveniencies; but on the contrary, they took the very same Measures, and in their Turn, laid several Duties upon Manufactures, which likewise caused Insurrections in several Places of *Brabant*, particularly at *Louvain*, where the Cloth-Workers  
having

having killed several Magistrates, to escape unpunished, fled some of them into *England*, and others into *Holland*. Those who got into *England*, gave the *English* the first Insight into Cloth Making, and shewed them how to work their own Wooll, to the great Detriment of the Trade of the Low Countries; for it is certain, that to the Year 1404, and even since the *English* sold their Wooll to the *Flemings*, and took their Cloths in Payment.

Not only the Cloth-Workers of *Brabant*, went into *Holland*, but a great many from *Flanders* did the same, and settled chiefly at *Leyden*, where that Art of Cloth-Working hath continued ever since, to shine out in its full Lustre.

Thus we plainly see, how laying on too high Duties was what removed good Part of the Manufacturies of *Flanders* into *Brabant*, and from that Province into those beyond the *Maeſe*, and into *England*, where they have raised the Woollen Manufacture to the highest Degree of Perfection it can possibly admit of.

The *English* and *Dutch* being very desirous to keep to themselves these important and valuable Manufacturies, took particular Care not to burden them with too heavy Customs, or Taxes. We shall explain in another Place the Reason of this their wise Policy and Conduct.

About the Year 1400, the Art of Salting, or Pickling of Herrings, was found out by a *Fleming* of *Pierulem*, which much encouraged this Sort of Fishery, as being of very great Advantage, and together with the Manufactures, made Navigation flourish in that large Province, and of Consequence very much increased their Trade and Commerce. The Towns of *Sluice* and *Bruges* were the two chief Places where the *Flemings* at that Time drove on the Herring-Trade with Foreigners. The former of which having a fine Harbour, both for Largeness of Extent, and safe Riding, capable of containing 500 Ships, was continually full of Ships from different Nations that traded there as well as at *Bruges*; for, in Reality, *Sluice* is no more than the Port of *Bruges*, which Towns have a Communication with each other, by means of a large Canal, *Bruges* is at present, one of the largest Towns in *Flanders*, but has lost much of its Splendour, since the Year 1487; for at that Time, there was scarce a Nation in *Europe*, how inconsiderable soever, that had not their proper Magazine, or Store-House, and a Company established there for Trade; as the *English*, *French*, *Scotch*, *Castilian*, and *Portuguese*, the Companies of *Arragon*, *Catalonia*, *Biscay*, *Venice*, *Florence*, *Genoa*, *Lucca*, *Milan*, *Germany*, *Denmark*, *Sweden*, and all the *Hanse Towns*. These last, about  
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the Year 1262, set up in that Town their greatest Store-House, which gave a considerable Encrease to Trade. It was to this Place that the several Nations just now mentioned imported the Commodities of their respective Countries, which they exchanged with each other, or for *Flanders Linnen*.

This mighty Trade of *Bruges* drew thither Workmen of all Sorts, which made it extremely rich and famous. Nothing can give us a better Idea of the Riches of this Town, than what History tells us of a Queen of *France*, who was Consort to *Philip the Fair*; who coming to *Bruges* in the Year 1301, seeing the Women so richly drest, could not in a Sort of Indignation forbear speaking these Words, *I thought I had been the only Queen in this Place, but I see there are above Six Hundred.*

The immense Riches of the People of *Bruges* on Account of their vast Trade, made them not only grow insolent and unjust to foreign Merchants (so that they left the Place) but also to their Sovereign, which was the very Ruin of their Trade, that had flourished in an extraordinary Manner to the Year 1487, when a War broke out between the *Flemings* and the Arch-Duke *Maximilian* their Prince, which lasted about ten Years, and expired with the Death of the Trade of *Bruges*. The People of *Antwerp* and *Amsterdam* grow=

growing uneasy to see all the Trade of the Low Countries center in *Bruges*, assisted the Arch-Duke *Maximilian* in chastising that Town for their Rebellion; and in Recompence for such Assistance, obtained from that Prince all the Privileges of Commerce formerly enjoyed by *Bruges*. Thus was that Trade transferred to *Antwerp* and *Amsterdam*, but the greatest Share fell to *Antwerp*; and every thing after seemed to contribute to the Encrease of its Commerce. The *Italians* much about that time having caused the Use of Silk to be more common in *Europe*, imported great Quantities to *Antwerp*. The *Portuguese* and *Spaniards* having discovered both *Indies*, imported Spices, and all other the rich Commodities produced by those vast and wealthy Climates; the *English* set up a Store-House for their Merchandise, and the *Hanse Towns*, who after the thirteenth Century, had settled one of their four Magazines of Goods at *Bruges*, removed it to *Antwerp*, where they caused to be built that stately Town-House which remains to this Day.

The Persecutions raised in *Germany* on the Account of Religion, under the Reign of the Emperour *Charles* the Fifth, in *France* under *Henry* the Second, and in *England* under *Queen Mary*, forced a World of People thither, as well as Trade, and particularly encreased that of *Antwerp*. The vast Concourse of all the  
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principal trading Nations made this Town the most celebrated Store-House, or Magazine in all *Europe*, if not of the whole World. In a Word, *Antwerp* was then, almost what *Amsterdam* is now; for about the Year 1550, it was a common thing to see 2500 Ships in the *Scheld*, laden with all Sorts of Merchandise. By this it evidently appears, that Commerce may flourish in a Monarchy, as well as in a Free State, especially if good Management be not wanting; for never any thing flourished more than the Manufactures and Commerce of the Low Countries, under the Government of four Princes of the House of *Burgundy*, and two of the House of *Austria*. I lay a long while under that old vulgar Error, that Common Wealths were most proper for carrying on a considerable Trade; but I altered my Opinion, after I had more narrowly examined things, and heard this Matter discussed by some of the ablest Merchants and Politicians of *England* and *Holland*, and after I had seriously reflected on the happy Situation and Fruitfulness of *France*, the Industry of its Inhabitants, and the Nature of its Government, I was fully convinced (and I think it would not be a hard Matter to convince others) that Commerce may be made to flourish there, as well as in any Republick whatever, and by that Means render that Monarchy more powerful than ever it was yet.

It is certainly the Interest of Princes that Commerce should flourish in their Dominions ; for never were greater things performed by Sovereigns than when the Trade of their Subjects has afforded them the Means to put them in Execution, which may easily be proved by infinite Examples both ancient and modern.

Trade has the only attractive Quality to draw into any State, Gold and Silver, which are the *Primum Mobile* of all Actions. This is so true, that *Spain*, in whose Dominions these two Metals are produced in greatest Abundance, is very often straitned for other Necessities of Life, and that purely for having neglected Trade and Manufactures, and all the Mines of *America* would scarce be sufficient to pay for all the Merchandise and Provisions that the other Nations of *Europe* bring thither.

Trade (which has not any Enemy so mortal as Constraint) changed its Residence as soon as the *Spaniards* began to deprive the seventeen Provinces of the Low Countries of their Privileges. The Inquisition which was designed to be set up by the Duke of *Alva*, and the Cruelty he exercised in governing those rich Provinces, forced such infinite Numbers to leave them, that in a few Months, above a Hundred Thousand Families retired into other Parts. After this, the Prince of *Parma* having in the Year 1584, besieged *Antwerp*,  
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gave a terrible Blow to its Trade ; for the *Scheld* during that long Siege, being continually blocked up, the Merchants who used to come and trade in that Town, went elsewhere. In short, the bad Politicks of the King of *Spain* compleated the Ruin of the Trade of *Antwerp*, as well as of the other Towns in the Low Countries, that were under his Jurisdiction. For the Views he had in humbling that Town, whose great Riches gave him Umbrage, made him, after its Reduction, neglect to keep the *Scheld* open, intending by so doing, to lessen its Trade, in hopes that most of it would then diffuse it self over the other Towns in the Low Countries. But his Hopes were frustrated : for being engaged in almost continual Wars with his Neighbours, and not taking due Care to free the Seas from Rovers and Enemies, it so fell out, that the Towns of *Flanders*, which used to follow the Fishery and Sea Trade, lost both, so far were they from getting amongst them any Share of the Trade of *Antwerp*. This made the whole Fishery remove to *Holland*, and the Manufactures of *Flanders* into other Countries.

One third Part of the Workmen and Merchants, who wrought, or dealt in Silks, Damasks, Taffeties, and Stockings, &c. went to settle in *England*, because none in that Country knew at that time to work in those Manufactures. A great many went to *Leyden*, and

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most of them that dealt in Linnen, went to settle in *Harlem*, not to mention those who went to *Amsterdam*.

It is astonishing to think, that the Merchants of *Antwerp*, in leaving a Place the most convenient in the World for Trade, should make choice of one seeming the most improper in all *Europe*. One would have rather thought that the Neighbourhood of *England*, whose Situation and Harbours are so admirably fitted for Trade, might have invited them thither.

Those Merchants who were of the reformed Religion, would have had a greater Inclination to settle there, than in any other Place whatsoever, in hopes not only to live more at quiet, but also on Account of the Situation, which is very advantageous for trading with all *Europe*. But they wanted to be in a Country where Foreigners were not obliged to pay such Customs, and other Taxes, which the native *English* are free from ; for in *England*, it seems, at that time, Foreigners and all their Posterity payed double what the Natives did ; besides, Foreigners were excluded all Companies or Societies of Trade, so that none were allowed to work either as Partners, or Masters, unless at such Trades as the Natives were unacquainted with, so that none went thither but such as wrought in Serges, Damasks, Stockings, &c.

Most of these, and the like Inconveniencies, they were also sure to meet with in the Hanse Towns, which partly was the Cause that almost the whole Trade of *Antwerp* came to be established in the Towns of *Holland*, which were free from all those Obstacles. The Situation of these neighbouring Towns, and several other Considerations contributed very much to draw thither, especially to *Amsterdam*, all this vast and profitable Trade.

After the Union of the seven Provinces, and the World saw this new Republick defend it self with Success against *Spain*, under the Conduct of the Prince of *Orange*, all those who hated the *Spanish* Government retired thither as to an *Asylum*, from its Rigour and Severity.

The Persecutions which *Spain* renewed with too great Severity in several Places, against those who had embraced the new Opinions, peopled the *United Provinces*, with a World of excellent Artisans, who set up there several new Manufactures, and brought those they had already, to great Perfection. The Civil Wars that lasted so long in *France*, then in *Germany*, and last of all in *England*, augmented considerably the Inhabitants of the *United Provinces*, and the Wars which broke out in the Year 1634, in the Low Countries, between *France* and *Spain*, made likewise great Numbers of Merchants and Workmen come into  
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*Holland*; for the richest Villages of *Flanders*, *Brabant*, and the Country beyond the *Maese*, being ruined by Winter Quarters, the Inhabitants themselves left them, because the most trading Towns had lost all their Commerce, and the Carriage of Goods was liable to such imminent Dangers.

All this caused not only the Towns of *Holland* to grow extraordinarily populous, but doubly encreased their Trade, as having a prodigious Vent for almost all Sorts of their Manufactures and other Commodities, during the Continuance of that War.

But after all, nothing has encreased the Inhabitants of *Holland*, and their Manufactures, so much as the *French* Protestants, who were almost all of them Merchants or Artisans, and came thither about twenty or thirty Years since.

To conclude, it must be acknowledged for incontestable Truth, that whenever Trade is clogg'd or constrain'd in any Government, it will retire to others where it may have greater Safety, and be more favourably used, which Happiness, at that time, it could nowhere find so well as in *Holland*.

Having here clearly explained and observed the principal Motives which induced so many Merchants and Artisans, to go in Millions to the *United Provinces*, let us now consider what their Commerce is, how they carry it on, and a Country producing nothing necessary to Trade

and Navigation, is become the Centre of both: For *Holland* produces nothing at all necessary, except Butter, Cheefe, and Clay to make *Delft* Ware, or other Eastern Ware, and this is well worth the Observation of the Reader that is any ways versed in Politicks.

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## C H A P. II.

*Of the Origin and Causes of the vast Trade of Holland.*

**I**T is certain, that some Manufactures were set up in several Places of *Holland*, even while the Hanse Towns commanded all the Trade and Navigation of *Europe*.

The Art of Pickling Herrings having been found out, as I before observed, about 250 Years ago, and the Ruine of the Trade of *Bruges* encreasing that of *Holland*, tho' it was but then inconsiderable, in Comparison to what it was afterwards by the Destruction of that of *Antwerp*; the prodigious Numbers of People that left the Low Countries, together with the vast Riches they brought thither (not to mention those who came thither from other Countries, where Liberty of Conscience was not permitted) were of Necessity obliged to trade by Sea, to procure for themselves Necessaries for Life, the new Country they were come to inhabit being but of small Extent, and not producing near what they had an absolute

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Occasion for. This Barrenness of *Holland* was one of the principal Causes of the great Trade we see carried on there at this time; for the great, and incredible Numbers of People who fled thither for Security, had no other Way to subsist, and to pay those heavy Taxes so often laid upon them, in Defence of their Liberty against the *Spaniards*.

These two powerful Motives, the Preservation of Life and Liberty, caused the Inhabitants of the *United Provinces* to carry their Goods to all Parts of the World, where they had any Prospect of Gain. About the Year 1625, they traded to the Kingdoms of the North; to *Germany*, *Poland*, *Muscovy*, *England*, to the *Spanish* Low Countries, and to *Portugal*, under *Spanish* Colours, or of any other Nation in Alliance with *Philip II*. But the *Spaniards* afterwards having by their Severities and Vexations deterred the *Dutch* from so much as attempting to trade with either of these two Nations, found to their no small Loss, the fatal Consequences of their mistaken Politicks; for the Seamen and Traders, who had by the Interruption of Trade with *Spain* and *Portugal*, lost all Manner of Employment, were resolved not to sit still, but hazard all, rather than live without Trading. With this Resolution they went to visit the Coasts of *America* and *Africa*, and their adjacent Islands; at last, thro' almost infinite Dangers, they penetrated into the *East Indies*.



By means of these several Voyages they got at first Hand, the greatest Part of those rich Commodities which they before used to furnish themselves with at second Hand, at *Lisbon* and *Seville*; and their famous East India Company, which began in the Year 1602, behaved themselves so dexterously, that they possess themselves of the greatest Part of the best Places the *Portuguese* were Masters of in the *Indies*, and of almost all their Commerce too in those Parts.

The Truce of twelve Years being concluded in the Beginning of the Year 1609, between the *Spaniards* and the *United Provinces*, the States General omitted nothing all that time to increase their Trade where it was already established, or to establish it where they never had established it before.

In the Year 1612, the Grand Seignior allowed the *Dutch* a free Trade throughout all his Dominions. This Treaty of Alliance with the *Turks*, gave a free and favourable Access to their Ships, all over the *Mediterranean*. About that time the King of *Morocco*, and the Emperour of *Japan* permitted them also to trade in all their Dominions; since which this Republick might boast of having extended her Commerce over all Parts of the old World, except *China*.

The War breaking out again in the Year 1621, between *Spain* and the *United Provinces*, their East India Company pushed on their  
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Conquests and Commerce in the East, with surprising Success, at the Expence of *Spain* and *Portugal*. Their *West India* Company, which began in the Year 1623, notwithstanding the War, besides those immense Sums they gained by taking of the *Spanish* Plate Fleets, and those considerable Advantages they made by ruining their Men of War, possessed themselves of Part of *Brazil*, and the most important Places the *Portuguese* held in *Guinea*, and the other Countries of the Western Coast of *Africa*; and could they but have kept the Conquests they made in *Brazil*, 'tis highly probable they would have been entire Masters of it, and in a few Years would have got into their own Hands, all the Trade of the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese* in that Place.

The *United Provinces* having obtained of the *Spaniards* very great Advantages for their Commerce, at the Peace of *Munster*, which was concluded in the Year 1648, they pushed it on with the utmost Vigour during that Calm their Republick then enjoyed, and got together by that means, immense Riches, which put them into a Condition to support the War which they had with *England* and *France*, in the Year 1672. In a Word, this famous Republick has (notwithstanding the Wars) extended her Trade over all Parts of the World, where she has, and still does maintain it with such prudent Conduct, and considerable Authority, that she may serve as a Model for all other trading Nations.

Before we enter into a particular Description of the Trade of the *United Provinces*, in all Parts of the World, It will be very necessary to speak somewhat of their Fishery, Manufactures, and Navigation,

### C H A P. III.

#### *Of the Fishery, Manufactures, and Navigation of the United Provinces.*

**I**T is certain, as I have already observed, that there were some Manufactures established in *Holland*, long before their Fishery, Traffick, and Navigation; but then this was so inconsiderable a Matter, that it may be truly said, that the Fishery gave Birth to their Traffick and Navigation. This was the Opinion of *Monfieur De Wit*, and the most understanding Persons in *Holland*.

The Subjects of the *United Provinces* fish on their own Sea Coasts, Lakes, and Rivers, and take vast Quantities of Cod, Haddock, Salmon, Soles, and other Sorts of Fish, and how considerable that Fishery may be, and how great the Quantities are which they carry to foreign Countries, yet it may truly be affirmed, that it is scarce any thing in Comparison of their Herring Fishery, which in the Provinces of *Holland* and *Zealand* employs above twenty Thousand Men. This Fishing, which

continues from Mid-summer Day to the 14th of *September*, and from thence it holds to the 25th of *November*, is chiefly on the Northern Coasts of *England*, off of *Yarmouth*, *Wintertownness*, and the River *Humber*.

From the very Beginning of this Republick, the States General have always used their utmost Endeavours to secure their Countrymen the Herring Fishery. Their Regulations for that Purpose are wonderful, and the Orders almost innumerable. They take great Care to throw all away that are not extreamly good, and to salt the others in time, that the Salt be good, and the Quantity sufficient; that the Parcels be sweet and clean, and have no manner of Defect that may spoil the Fish. In short, it must be owned, that the *Dutch* omit nothing that may keep up the Value and Reputation this Commodity has acquired by passing through their Hands.

It ought not to be thought strange, that the States General are so very careful of their Herring Fishing, and of their good Way of curing them, since it is a Matter of so great Importance, as to be taken Notice of in all their Proclamations, for the Continuance of Commerce and the Fishery.

The Herring Fishery is the greatest Trade, and the best Gold Mine belonging to the *United Provinces*: This enriches so many Families, and employs so many People; this makes

them build so many Ships in *Holland*, which they send to all Parts laden with this Commodity. They sell vast Quantities to the neighbouring Countries, and are very often paid in ready Money; 'tis this which encreases their Commerce, their Privileges, and even their Revenues.

Monsieur *Matteren* assures us, that in the Year 1601, in three Days time there sailed out from *Holland* 1500 Busses to fish for Herrings. A Bus is a Vessel built on Purpose for this Sort of Fishing, and some of them are from 50 to 60 Tuns.

Sir *Walter Rawleigh* says, that in the Year 1609, the *Dutch* employed on the Coast of *England* in this Fishery, 3000 Ships, and 15000 Men; and a *Dutch* Author who was employed by Messieurs *De Wit*, tells us, that a little while before the Province of *Holland* alone sent out every Year, in time of Peace, above 1000 Busses, and 150 lesser Vessels.

It is said, that the *Dutch* fish and sell every Year above 300000 Tuns of Fish, which at 200 Florins per Tun, brings in every Year 75 Millions of Livres, of which 52 Millions turn (as they say) to the Country's Profit, and the 23 other Millions that remain, go towards defraying the Charges of such Fishery; so that if one considers that all the Ships employed in Fishing are built in *Holland*; that all the Cordage, Sails, Nets, and Barrels, are made there,



there,, and that they find their own Salt and Provisions for the Subsistence of this great Number of Fishermen, one may easily comprehend, that this Employment only, maintains an incredible Number of Men and Families, not including all those who are employed to transport these Fish to almost all the Kingdoms and Countries of the World.

These Busses sail generally from *Dort*, *Rotterdam*, *Delft*, *Schiedam*, *Vlaedinguen*, the *Brill*, *Maeslandsbies*, *Enchuisen*, and some other Places of less Note.

This Art of Pickling and Barrelling Herring, as I said before, was found out by a Fleming of *Eierulem*, whose Name was *William Byerem*. He died in the Year 1347, and was buried at *Bierulem*.

*Charles* the Fifth coming to that Town, caused a Tomb to be erected to honour the Memory of that Man who had procured so great an Advantage to his Country.

To the Fishery in general may be added that of the Whale, the Oil and Fins of which serve for several Uses. They fish for the Whales on the Coasts of *Greenland* and *Spitsburg*, which is but seven or eight Days Voyage with a South Wind; a thing very frequent in *Holland*.

Whale Fishing is only once a Year. There sails from *Amsterdam*, and the neighbouring Towns, from the *Maese* and *Winde*, above 200 Ships from 200 to 250 Tuns Burthen, having

having each 35 or 40 Men aboard to be employed in the Fishery.

The largest Whales yield about 7 or 8 Tun of Oil: This Oil thickens like Hogs-Lard, and they use great Quantities of it in the *United Provinces*, especially the poor and labouring People, to burn in Lamps, and in making green Soap, a thing only in Use in the Low Countries, *Artois* and *Picardy*. Those that make Shammy Leather of Bucks, Goats, Sheeps, and Elks Skins, consume great Quantities of this Oil, which is the most proper for this Sort of Dressing Leather, of any Oil whatsoever, and therefore they cannot well be without it.

The Manufactures in the *United Provinces* employ as many People as the Fishery. It is incredible how many get their Livelihood by both. I have before observed, that some Manufactures were established before the Fishery, but those Manufactures were then very inconsiderable to what they were afterwards. The Herring Fishery in particular, was so advantageous to the *Dutch*, that the Sale of their Fish brought into their Country, from the Places where they used to dispose of them, several unwrought Goods, which they got finished at Home by those vast Numbers of Workmen of all Sorts, who had fled hither from *Flanders*, *Brabant*, *France*, *Germany*, and several other Countries, on the Account of Persecution.



I do not pretend to give an exact Particular of all the Manufactures of the *United Provinces*; it would be too prolix for the Brevity of this Treatise. I shall only say, that it is certain, that in no Kingdom, State, or Country in the World, they are so numerous and flourishing, as in *Holland*. I shall take Notice only of some of the most considerable, and such as sell best in other Countries.

Tho' there are Manufactures in several Places of the *United Provinces*, yet they flourish most in the Towns of *Amsterdam*, *Leyden*, and *Harlem*; but *Amsterdam*, for Number, far exceeds the other two.

In this last Town they make Cloths, Camlets, and all Sorts of Woollen and Hair Stuffs; as also, all Sorts of Silks, Gold and Silver Stuffs and Ribbons, and are the best made in this Town of any in all the Provinces.

Besides gilt Leather, they work here all other Sorts, as Morocco, Shammy, and many other Sorts; and it may likewise be said, that Dying, which is settled in several other Towns and Places of these Provinces, is one of the most considerable Manufactures of this Republick.

There are also at *Amsterdam* several Houses for Refining Sugar, Borax, Camphire, Cinna-ber, and Sulphur; several for whitening yellow Wax, a great many Saw-Mills for all Sorts of Woods, Powder-Mills, Snuff-Mills, Mills to polish Marble, and Mills to draw Oil from  
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several Sorts of Seeds. In short, one may say of *Amsterdam* what *Vopiscus* said of *Alexandria*, who after he had given an Account of its Manufactures, added, “ That all its Inhabitants “ followed some Trade; that the lame and the “ gouty were employed, and even those that “ had the Gout in their Hands did not sit idle.

The Town of *Leyden*, without Dispute, is preferable to all others for all Sorts of Woollen Manufactures, especially the finest Sort; as Serges, Camlets, and the like. They tell you that these Manufactures, after the Year 1400, began to grow in some Esteem, and the Workmen of *Ipres* that fled from their own Country, settled themselves there. But be that as it will, every Body agrees they had not then that Esteem, till after the Persecutions for Religion began, which effectually drove great Numbers of Workmen from the Provinces of *Flanders*, *Hainault*, and *Artois*, &c.

They make also good Woollen Stuffs at *Harlem*, but they are much inferior to those of *Leyden*, which latter may undoubtedly pass for the best of *Europe* in their Kind,

The *Dutch* have their Wooll from *Spain*, and *England*, *Germany*, *Poland*, and the *Levant*, that Sort of Wooll called *Vigogue*, from *Peru*, and that of *Coramania* from *Persia*.

The best Silks are made at *Harlem*, and this Manufacture, in its Kind, is not inferior to the Cloth Manufacture of *Leyden*. They make

make in this Place, coarse flowered Velvets, Linnens, Silks, Gauzes, and in general, all Sorts of slight Silks, of which there is a great Consumption in *Germany*, and all over the North, *Portugal*, and other Places, where they prefer these Silks, and the Gold and Silver Brocades made here to those of *France*. Besides they are 15 or 20 *per Cent* cheaper.

These Manufactures, in Reality, are not so beautiful, nor so good as those of *Lyons* and *Tours*; but the Difference in the Piece makes amends for that, and makes them go off better. And tho' their Workmen want a Genius for Design, and Invention, yet they no sooner come from *France*, but they imitate them to Perfection. They know how to work and finish them with all possible Dexterity and Neatness. This added to their Cheapness, makes other Countries rather make use of them.

Besides, the *Dutch* import Silks from *Italy*, the *Levant*, *Persia*, *Bengal*, *Tonquin*, and *China*.

The Town of *Delft* is a Place famous for fine earthen Ware, in Imitation of *China*.

*Horne* is for dealing in Cheese which is made in the North of *Holland*, as also for large Earthen, or Stone Ware.

In *Dort* and some other Places, there are Houses for refining Salt; and if I mistake not, Places for Spinning and Bleaching Thread.

*Sardam*, not far from *Amsterdam*, is certainly the only Place in the World where all Sorts  
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of Ships are built for the Use of Merchants, not only of the *United Provinces*, but of other Countries, which causes a prodigious Consumption of Wood, Cordage, Masts, Sails, and other Necessaries for Shipping, of which great Numbers are daily sold to Strangers, ready built, and fit for Launching.

The *Dutch* have their Timber from *Muscovy*, *Norway*, the *Lower Germany*, *Pomerania*, and the Provinces bordering on the *Baltick*, Most of this Timber is brought to *Sardam*. which is a Village somewhat more than two Leagues long, whose Inhabitants are all Carpenters; and they are so skilful in their Business, that (as it is credibly reported) if they have three Months Notice before-hand, they can every Day, for as long a time as is required, build, and compleatly finish a Ship of 4 or 500 Tuns.

Tho' all the Linnen that goes under the Name of *Holland*, is not made in the *United Provinces*, yet I cannot but reckon it among their Manufactures, by reason of its being bleached there. They make vast Quantities in the Provinces of *Groningen*, *Friseland*, and *Overissell*, where there grows Abundance of Flax; and I believe they make great Quantities in the Dutchy of *Fuliers*, which they send thence in the Beginning of the Spring to *Harlem*, where they bleach wonderfully well by reason of the Sea Water, which by its being purified  
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in the *Downs*, gives the Linnen that beautiful White which is so much admired.

The Manufactures of Sail Cloth, which was formerly made in *Britanny*, Cordage, and Fishing Nets, employ almost an infinite Number of People.

The *Dutch* generally bring from *Muscovy*, *Poland*, *Dantzic*, *Riga*, and other Towns of the North, those vast Quantities of Hemp and Flax they make use of in their Manufactures.

Printing employs also a World of People in these Provinces, were every one strives to excel in that Art. It is the same in Hat-making, which is as considerable a Manufacture as that of Paper, which they have within these few Years taken from the *French*. This last Manufacture of Paper, they have set up in several Places; but what they make in *Guelderland* is much the best.

Navigation and Commerce have so near a Relation one to another, that it is very difficult for one to flourish in a State without the other; in Reality, it is impossible one should subsist without the other. For if Navigation be supported by Trade, Trade cannot flourish without Navigation, which may, in some Measure be said to be the very Life and Soul of Trade, since by Navigation all Sorts of Merchandise are so easily transported to all Ports of the World, and with so little Expence. And whatever Nation can make it self Master of  
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Navigation, will be so of Trade, and consequently immense Riches, and (if I may use the Expression) even of Empires and Kingdoms.

The *Dutch* who know very well this important Truth, have for that End omitted no Pains nor Expence; and it has ever been the principal Object of their Care and Application. It must be owned, that their Fishery Manufactures, and vast Trade have furnished them with all possible Advantages of raising their Maritime Affairs above those of other Nations: And the Secret they have found out of sailing, and carrying Goods much cheaper than other People, has contributed as much. This makes other Nations willing to employ the *Dutch* Ships, because 'tis not only less expensive, but they can have in *Holland* Ships always ready to sail for all Countries, but also because of the Convoys they send with their Merchant Ships. Besides, they are very just and faithful in giving a good Account of all they are entrusted with, This Trust considerably encreases their Navigation, and causes them to build a vast Number of Ships, which gives constant Employment to a prodigious Number of Seamen, who repair thither from all Parts, and on their Arrival, are always sure of finding Business. The Masters of Ships of Freight, in *Holland*, make up a considerable Part of that State.



We come now to Discourse of the Trade of the *United Provinces* to several Parts of the World; but it will not be improper first to observe, that such Foreign Trade is principally carried on by the Merchants of the Provinces of *Holland* and *Zeland*, &c. and that some certain Species of Commerce is peculiar to some certain Towns.

*Amsterdam* makes much the greatest Figure in foreign Traffick; for besides the Trade of both the *Indies*, she has likewise that of the *Levant*, *Cadiz*, *Lisbon*, *Muscovy*, and the North, which last is peculiar to her self; some small Trade she has with *France*, for Wines and Brandy, but nothing in Comparison to *Roterdam*: The Situation of this last Town on the *Meuse* or *Maese*, has made her Trade with *France*, *England* and *Scotland*, very considerable; she drives, besides, a great Trade to the *Levant*, *Spain*, and the *East-Indies*; in short, this Town has Commerce with all Parts, the North excepted, yet much inferior to that of *Amsterdam*, tho' her Port so advantageously situated on the *Maese*, as I hinted before, is infinitely better and much more commodious.

The Trade of *Dort* consists in little else than that of Rhenish-Wine, (which is there put on Shoar,) and white Salt, refin'd in that Town. The *Dutch* have most of their pickled and dry'd Salmon from *Dort*.

*Delft*, *Horn*, and *Enchuisen*, have each their peculiar Chamber in the *East-India* Company. *Delft* is particularly famous for its fine Earthen-ware, resembling that of *China* ; *Horn* for Cheese, which its Inhabitants transport to all Parts in great Quantities ; and some Years ago, this Commodity of Cheese, and some other Articles, made Trade considerably flourish in *Horn*.

The Commerce of *Enchuisen* consists chiefly in Herrings, which makes that Town very considerable, and very rich.

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#### CHAP. IV.

#### *Of the Dutch Trade in the North, Muscovy and Norway.*

**I** Begin with the Northern Trade, not only because 'tis one of the first the *Dutch* apply'd themselves to ; but also, because 'tis of the greatest Importance and Necessity of any to that Republick ; since from hence she has the greatest Part of her Provisions ; as Wheat and other Grain, so necessary for the Subsistence of her People ; as also, all Things necessary for their Navigation, without which, and other Commodities of absolute Necessity, they would find it very difficult to support themselves.

selves. Under this Article of the Northern Trade, I comprehend that of *Muscovy*, *Norway*, and all the Ports of the *Baltick*-Sea; that is, that of *Sweden*, *Denmark*, *Poland*, and all the *Lower-Germany*.

The *Hanse Towns* for many Years together engrossed this Trade; but *Erick* the 8th of that Name, King of *Denmark*, against whom they waged a cruel and bloody War, having about the Year 1403, call'd in the *Zelanders* and some other Nations to his Assistance, open'd to them the South-Passage for their more commodious carrying on their Trade to the *Baltick*, thinking he could have no better way to be revenged on these Towns; since that time 'tis true they have often boasted of their keeping that Sea clear of Foreigners, but to little purpose; and their Trade (the greatest that ever was then known) declining in the Year 1500, diminished to that Degree, that their Power came to little or nothing about the Year 1506.

The *Dutch* and *English* applying themselves very earnestly to Navigation, and the former having with much Honour put an end to a War, they had so long maintain'd against the *Spaniards*, for their Liberties, by the Treaty of 1609, all Nations, especially such as were trading People, courted their Alliance: the *Hanse Towns* were the first that discover'd their Inclinations, believing that nothing would con-

tribute more to the Preservation of the little Trade and Credit they had left.

The *Dutch*, on their side, desir'd nothing more than such an Alliance, which promis'd them great Advantage in the Northern Trade; and accordingly, on the 22d of May 1631, sign'd a Treaty of Confederacy with *Lubeck*, then Chief of the *Teutonicke* Hanse Towns, for a free and safe Trade to the *Baltick*: In the Year following, the most considerable of the other Hanse Towns follow'd the Example of *Lubeck*; and the *Dutch* made so good use of these Treaties, and several other Advantages they got in the North, that they have almost entirely stript all the Hanse Towns, *Hamburg* only excepted, of the little Trade there was left them, and (if we may be allow'd to say so) made themselves Sole Masters of all the Commerce of the North.

I shall in a few Words give you an Account of their Trade to *Muscovy*.

The Trade that *Europe* drove with that vast Empire, was carried on constantly by the way of *Revel* and *Narva*, two Towns in *Livonia*, situated on the extream Parts of the *Baltick*; till the Year 1653; but the *English* who first attempted the North-Passage to *China*, discover'd *Archangel*, one of the best Ports the *Muscovites* have upon the *White Sea*, and the most proper and commodious for a great Trade, being but seven or eight Leagues distant from the

the famous River *Diuna*, which runs thro' the greatest Part of *Muscovy*; and the Czar granted them great Privileges, to engage them to settle a Trade at *Archangel*.

The *Dutch* soon follow'd the same Route; and, in spite of all the Obstacles the *English* put in their Way, they obtain'd of the Czar the same Permission to Trade to *Archangel*, as the *English*.

Every Year since that Grant, they have sent thither 36 or 40 Sail of Ships, from 200 to 400 Tuns, which go always from *Holland* in two Squadrons; the first consisting only of 5 or 6 Ships, goes off usually in the Month of *June*, and returns in *September*; and the second, consisting of 30, or 34 Ships, sails in *July*, and returns not from *Archangel* till the end of *October*: These two Fleets, which vary sometimes as to their Number, have always a Convoy allow'd them by the City of *Amsterdam*, which City engrosses almost all that Trade. The Principal Time of Traffick, is during the Fair of *Archangel*, which begins the 20th of *August*, and ends the last Day of that Month.

I shall give you here a short Account of the Principal Commodities the *Dutch* import to *Muscovy*, and what they bring thence, viz. Silk, Linnen and Woollen Stuffs, Beaver's Skins from *Canada*, Paper, Small-Ware of all sorts, and Iron-work, Cannon, and Small-Arms, Gun-powder, Sulphur, Copper, Lead,



Tin, Wines, Brandies, Oils, and Vinegar, Confections and dry Fruits, Saffron, Sugar, Spices, Pepper, and Pickled Herrings of the first Season, Frankincense, Copperas, Ceruse, or White-Lead, Indigo, and all sorts of Woods for dying Red, Galloons and Laces of all sorts, Gold and Silver-Thread, and all sorts of Silver Coin.

I shall before I conclude this Treatise, make some Remarks on the Commodities sent to and exported from *Muscovy*.

However by this Account, one may easily see, how considerable the *Dutch* Trade to *Muscovy* is, not only in relation to its Convoys and Returns, but also on Account of the Number of Ships it continually maintains. One would have imagin'd the *English*, who first enjoy'd the Privileges of paying no manner of Custom, should have made themselves entirely Masters of the *Muscovite* Trade ; however, it is certain, they send now a-days no more than 4 or 5 Vessels thither, while the *Dutch* commonly send 40, or thereabouts.

A certain *English* Author has taken a great deal of Pains, to let us know what Methods the *Dutch* made use of to raise their Commerce with *Muscovy*, above that of *England* : His Words are these :

‘ The *English* Cloths are not valued in *Russia*, because they are dearer than those of *Holland*, which, tho’ they shrink after being  
‘ wet,



' wet, above a sixth part, yet the *Russians* pre-  
 ' fer them to our Cloths, because say they,  
 ' no Cloth will shrink but what is New. It  
 ' must be own'd, that we are much in the  
 ' wrong in not complying with their Humour,  
 ' and restraining our selves to that Commodi-  
 ' ty only; while the *Dutch* bring them thither  
 ' a vast Quantity of Toys, things that sell  
 ' better there than Cloths, which begin now  
 ' to be out of Fashion in that Country.

' If the *Dutch* have entirely establish'd in  
 ' *Russia* the *Persian* and *Indian* Silk Trade, I  
 ' am afraid the *English* will find it a very dif-  
 ' ficult Matter to recover their Immunities and  
 ' Privileges; for the *Russians* are now grown  
 ' cunning, having been corrupted by the *Dutch*;  
 ' who know well how to distribute their Mo-  
 ' ney to the best Advantage, and being much  
 ' richer in that Country, and of greater Cre-  
 ' dit, and more numerous than the *English*,  
 ' leave no Stone unturn'd to ruine them, and  
 ' have succeeded too well in their Project,  
 ' much better than could be imagin'd. By Pre-  
 ' sents they gain the Friendship and Protection  
 ' of the Nobility, and make us despicable by  
 ' scandalous Pictures, and impudent defamato-  
 ' ry Libels.

' The only way in my Opinion, to re-  
 ' establish our Reputation and Commerce  
 ' in that Country, would be to permit only  
 ' such Merchants to trade thither as should

‘ give no Credit for any Merchandize, tho’  
 ‘ the *Russians* fix a Time for Payment, and  
 ‘ to represent by Persons of Worth and good  
 ‘ Understanding, the flourishing Condition of  
 ‘ the Dominions of the King of *Great Bri-*  
 ‘ *tain.*

Let us now come to the Trade of *Norway*.  
 The Riches of this Kingdom, which is in  
 subjection to the Crown of *Denmark*, consist  
 in Masts for Ships, and other sorts of Timber,  
 as well for Ship-building as other Carpenter’s  
 Work, Copper, and Iron Mines; Pitch and  
 Tar, dry’d Fish, Furrs, Buck-skins, Ashes,  
 Butter and Tallow.

These are the Chief Commodities the *Nor-*  
*way* Merchants exchange with Foreigners for  
 many things they want, of absolute Necessity  
 for the Support of Life. The *Dutch* who  
 have a greater Trade to *Norway* than all other  
 Nations put together, carry usually thither Spi-  
 ces, Salt, Canary, Vinegar, Brandy, Cheese,  
 Tobacco Rolls, Drapery, and Small Wares.

Tho’ this Kingdom is of vast Extent, yet  
 there is but very little Consumption, being nei-  
 ther Rich nor well Peopled; and it may be  
 said, that even Money would be entirely un-  
 known here, was it not for what the *Dutch*  
 bring along with them to buy Timber.

But however inconsiderable the *Norway*  
 Trade may seem; it employs notwithstanding  
 near 300 *Dutch* Vessels, most of which come  
 from

from the Towns and Villages of *Friseland*, and those about *Amsterdam*, they are commonly of 4 or 500 Tons Burthen, and have not above 10 or 12 Hands a-piece.

*Berghen*, the Capital of *Norway*, has a good Port, and is the Place of greatest Trade : The *Dutch* resort to several other Ports, as *Drontheim* and *Copernick*.

As Timber is the chief Commodity the *Dutch* deal for in *Norway*, and which they bring in great Quantities from that Kingdom, they have concluded many Treaties with the King of *Denmark* to secure that Trade, *viz.* the Treaty of *Christianople*, signed *August 13, 1645*, and that of the *Hague*, the *12th of February 1669*.

## CHAP. V.

### *Of the Baltick Trade.*

THE Trade of this Sea, which is almost 2000 Leagues in Circumference, includes that of the Kingdoms of *Sweden* and *Denmark* ; the Countries of *Mecklenberg*, *Pomerania*, *Prussia*, *Courland* and *Livonia* ; most of which, supply the *Dutch* with a prodigious Quantity of all sorts of Grain, abundance of Copper, Iron, Steel, Arms of all sorts, Wood

and

and Timber, Hemp, Flax, Pitch, Tar, and several other Commodities.

They carry a much greater Quantity of Goods from the *Baltick* than they bring to it, the Consumption being very inconsiderable in those Parts, unless it be at *Dantzick*, which is the common Magazine or Store-house of *Poland*; the Discount or Overplus they pay in *Rixdollars*, which they bring along with them.

As most of the Commodities that come from the *Baltick* Sea are bulky and very heavy, that Trade employs a great Number of Ships, and the *Dutch* send thither every Year 1000 or 1200.

*Denmark* yields but few Commodities to Strangers, and the Trade of that Kingdom is nothing near so considerable as that of *Norway*; the *Dutch* bring a pretty good Quantity of Wheat from the small Island of *Laland*, which is very fruitful in all sorts of Grain, especially Wheat. About forty Years ago they used to lade about twelve Ships with Rye from the Isle of *Zeland*, but the Boors now a-days scarce Sow more than what suffices for their Subsistence.

The *Dutch* bring also every Year vast Numbers of lean Horn'd Cattle from *Futland*, which they turn into the Meadows in *Holland* to fatten; and this is none of the least profitable Articles in the *Dutch* Trade.

Den-

*Denmark* has no considerable Port, but that of *Copenhagen*, which in reality is one of the finest in the World.

*Sweden* supplies the *Dutch* with more Commodities than *Denmark*, and its Trade is much more considerable. The principal Goods they bring from this Country are Copper, (the best in *Europe*) Iron, Steel, great Quantities of all sorts of Arms made of those Mettals, as Muskets, Pistols, Cannons for Ships, Bullets, Pikes, Helmets, Breast-Plates, and Brass Wire, not to mention vast Quantities of other Goods and Commodities, as Lead, Copper, Pitch, Tar, Masts, Planks, and Barks made of Deal, the best in the North.

The *Dutch* on their Part, furnish *Sweden* with the same Commodities as they do *Denmark*, and much about the same Quantity, viz. Spices and Drugs of all sorts, Salt, Sugar, Wines, Brandies, Linnen, Silks, and Woollen Stuffs, and such other Manufactures as those two Northern Kingdoms stand most in need of. The *Dutch* may be said to be in some sort the Masters of the greatest Part of the *Swedish* Trade, since they are of the Copper. The Farmers of these Mines, having always Occasion for Money, sell this Commodity to the Merchants of *Amsterdam*, who advance them whatever Sums they want: 'Tis just the same with their Pitch and Tar, the same Merchants buying most of these Goods from the King's Farmers,



Farmers, and making them besides very considerable Advances : This is the Reason why these and other *Swedish* Goods are sold as cheap at *Amsterdam* as in *Sweden* itself.

The chief Trade this Kingdom has with Foreigners, is at *Stockholm*, the Capital City, and some other Ports of the ancient Dominions of *Sweden*, as well as those of its Conquests in *Germany* and *Poland*, of which I shall discourse hereafter.

*Pomerania* in the Year 1648, was divided by the Treaty of *Osnabrugh*, between the *Swedes* and *Brandenburghers* ; that Part of it which is washed by the *Oder*, and the Ports of *Stralsund*, *Wolgast* and *Stetin* belong to the King of *Sweden*, and the other Part where *Colberg*, a Place of great Commerce is situated, belongs to the Elector of *Brandenburg*.

*Pomerania* abounds in great Quantities of Corn, vast Numbers of Cattel, Skins, Leather, Wool, Timber, &c. the Isle of *Rügen*, which is one of its Dependencies, produces a great deal of Wheat.

*Stetin*, the Capital of *Pomerania*, situated on the *Oder*, is a Place of the greatest Trade with Strangers in that Province ; that of *Silesia* are of the richest and most fruitful Provinces in *Germany*, in Corn, Honey, Butter, Wax, Lead, Iron, Wooll, Tin, Flax, Linnen and Woollen Cloths, is also carried on in *Stetin*, which likewise shares great Part of the Trade of the  
Marquisate

Marquisate of *Brandenburg*, the River *Oder* running thro' both Provinces.

The *Dutch*, among other Things, export from *Pomerania* all sorts of Corn, vast Quantities of coarse Wooll, *Silesia* Linnen, Timber, Masts, and other Commodities.

*Prussia* is divided into two Parts, viz. the Royal *Prussia*, belonging to the Crown of *Poland*, and the Ducal *Prussia* in subjection to the Marquis of *Brandenburg*, now King of *Prussia*, which Title was conferr'd on him by this Emperor's Father, about 10 or 12 Years since. This Kingdom, or rather Demy-Province, is very fruitful in Wheat, which is look'd upon to be better than that any in *Poland*; it has several very good Sea-Ports, amongst which *Dantzick*, *Koningsberg*, and *Memel* are the most considerable: The two last are in the Ducal, and the first in the Royal *Prussia*, and almost all the *Polish* Trade is carried on in that Port: But before I treat of this Branch of Trade, I shall speak a few Words in relation to that of the Ducal *Prussia*, part of which is carried on at *Koningsburg*, a Town situated at the Mouth of the *Pregel*; this Port is much frequented by the *English*, as well as *Dutch*; the large Vessels commonly unlade at *Pil'aw* (a Port, formerly a Fortress only, on the Mouth of the *Frisknaß*) that they may the more easily go up to *Koningsberg*; besides the Commodities of the Country,

Country, that abound here, *Lithuania* and *Poland* send to this Place by the Way of *Pregel*, great Quantities of Oak for Coopers Work, abundance of Ashes, Wheat, Leather, Furrs, Rice, Honey, Wax, Barley, Millet, and Hemp. The *Dutch* bring likewise to *Koningsberg*, Cloths, Wines, Cheese, Salt, Tobacco, Spices, Iron, Lead, Tin, and old *Dutch* Dollers.

*Poland* is the most fruitful Country in the World, in all sorts of Grain, good Pasturage, Cattle, Wax, and Honey, besides Mines of Salt, Iron, Lead Copper, Quick-silver, Vitriol, Salt-Petre, and Sulphur. All the Commerce of this great Kingdom is chiefly carried on at *Dantzick*, some small Part excepted, at the other Ports of *Prussia* and *Livonia* : The Situation of *Dantzick*, on the Mouth of the *Vistula*, is wonderfully commodious for Trade ; for that River, which is one of the most famous in *Europe*, from South to North, runs thorough the greatest Part of the fertile Plains of *Poland*, and is almost Navigable all along its Course, which is more than 300 Leagues. This makes *Dantzick* one of the chief Towns in *Europe*, as well on Account of its great Trade, as its vast Extent, and Riches : The great Magazines of Wheat in this Place, make it be taken Notice of by all *Europe* ; and for that Reason *Dantzick* is commonly call'd, the Granary of the Nor-

Northern Kingdoms, and the *United Provinces*.

Besides *Dantzick*, properly speaking, is a Republick governed by its own Laws, under the Protection of the Crown of *Poland* : The Inhabitants have this Privilege, that none but they can buy any *Polish* Corn, if once enter'd their Port ; but then on the other hand, they must take all what is brought at the Price the Magistrates shall set upon it.

As the *Poles* are all Strangers to Trade and Navigation, and much less to Manufactures, so are they oblig'd to make use of Strangers, the *Dutch* especially, to supply them with what Commodities they from time to time stand in need of. Here follows an Account of the Principal Goods they generally are supply'd with from Abroad, *viz.*

All sorts of Silks, great Quantities of Cloth, Woods for Dying, all sorts of Spices, Drugs, *Italian Crema Tartar*, Sugar, Oyl, Paper ; Wines of all sorts, *French* Salt and Brandies ; of these Liquors, there is a great Consumption in *Prussia*.

These Commodities are generally truck'd for Wheat, and other Corn, Oak and Deal, excellent Masts, Hemp and Flax, Honey, Wax and Tallow, Steel, Iron, Copper and Lead ; Saltpetre, Salt, Pitch and Tar, yellow Amber, Bulls and Cow Hides, Furs, and Wooll, &c.

*Dant-*

*Dantzick* being the greatest Place for Trade in the North, the *Dutch* have ever taken a particular Care to assist that Town in the Preservation of its Liberties against the Attempts of the Kings of *Poland* and *Sweden*, and other Powers.

The Dutchy of *Courland* is a particular Sovereignty, under the Protection of *Poland*; *Libaw* and *Memel* are its two Sea-Ports, from whence, besides Wheat and Wood, a great deal of Linseed is transported to *Holland*, where they use great Quantities in making of Oil; great Quantities is likewise carry'd into *Flanders* for Seed, the Linseed of those Countries being apt to degenerate, and become unfit for Sowing. I have been credibly informed, that the *Dutch* employ in the Trade of *Courland*, every Year 20 or 25 Ships.

*Livonia* belongs to *Sweden*; and is one of the most fruitful Countries in the World for Wheat, and would be one of the richest, had not a long War swept off such vast Numbers of its Inhabitants: Not only the greatest Commerce of this vast Province, but good Part of that of *Muscovy* and *Lithuania* is carried on in the Ports of *Riga*, *Revel* and *Narva*; it is partly by the River *Narva*, and partly by their Sledges in the great Snows, that the *Muscovites* and *Lithuanians* bring to *Riga* their Flax, Hemp, Wax, Pitch, Wheat and Furs, &c.

*Revel*



*Revel* has for a long time since, been reputed one of the best Northern Towns for Trade; its Situation and Port seem contriv'd for Traffick, especially that of *Muscovy*, which flourished here very much, before the North Passage to *Archangel* was found out.

*Narva* is situated on the River of that Name; this Town is well known to those who Trade to *Muscovy* by the *Baltick*, being the direct Passage to *Novogrod* and *Pleskou*, two Towns of the greatest Trade in that Empire, and both 40 Leagues distant from *Narva*.

The little Town of *Pernaw*, is in like Manner situated on a River of the same Name; People come thither to load Wheat for the *Netherlands*; it's Trade grows more considerable every Day, by reason of those great Quantities of excellent and well proportion'd Mafts, and other fit Timber that come thither by Water: It is believ'd, if this Trade holds, it will prejudice that of *Norway*; for the *Dutch*, that used before the Year 1680, to send five or six Ships yearly to *Pernaw*, send now 50 or 60.

The chief Commodities that are exported from these four Towns of *Livonia*, and especially from *Riga*, are great Quantities of Wheat, and other Grain; Mafts from *Russia* and *Livonia*, (the latter are the most valuable) Wood for Tuns, Pipes and Barrels, Oak,  
E Cor-

50 MEMOIRS of the  
Cordage, Deal-Boards, Hemp, Flax, Linseed,  
Wax, Honey, and Tallow, &c.

And in Exchange they give old Dollars,  
Salt, Spices, Sugar, Tobacco, Paper, Iron-  
Work and Small Wares, &c.

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## SECTION I.

*Remarks on what Commodities the Dutch  
export to the North, and import from  
thence.*

**A**S there are much more Goods that come  
from the North, than what are carry'd  
to those Parts ; so Money is absolutely  
necessary to discharge the overplus ; and it  
would be difficult, without this necessary In-  
gredient, to make any advantageous Voyages  
to the North. *Dutch* Dollars go very current  
there, and are much esteemed ; and there is  
scarce any other Species seen in the North ;  
and were it not for the Gold and Silver these  
Northern People get, merely on Account of  
their Trade, Money would be very scarce  
with them, as I observed before.

Next to Gold and Silver, Spices are the  
best Commodities one can carry into the  
North ; these are as much valued there, as if they  
were

were things absolutely necessary to support Life ; there is a prodigious Consumption of them, especially in *Muscovy* and *Poland*. The Consumption in *Muscovy* is chiefly in Nutmegs and Pepper, which they use in their ordinary Drink, as well as in Brandy ; and I have been very well assured, that the *Dutch* have brought into *Muscovy*, 8 or 900 Bails of Pepper and Nutmegs. Sugar, Tobacco, and Drugs, both for the Apothecary and Dying, sell well in the North ; Sea-Salt is also a very necessary Commodity in the North, of which there is almost an infinite Consumption : They have many Years since laid aside the making of Salt themselves, having been used to the *Portugal* and *Spanish* Salt. And as for the *French* Salt, there is scarce any sold but in *Prussia*.

There is likewise in these Countries a prodigious Consumption of *French* and *Spanish* Wines, Brandy, Oil and Vinegar ; Paper and dry'd Fruits of all sorts ; in short, whatever the warm Countries produce sell well here. In *Muscovy* and *Poland* there is also a vast Consumption of Cloth and Woollen Stuffs, and Silks of the *Dutch* and *English* Manufactory ; but these Stuffs, Silks, and Cloth, must be of all Sorts, Qualities, and Colours ; they sell great Quantities of the coarser sort in *Muscovy*, as well as coarse Linnen, in the other Countries of the North ; the use of Woollen-Stuffs is not so considerable.

Almost all the Silks, Gold and Silver Brocades, they bring into the North, are made in *Holland*; heretofore they used to have them from *France*, as well as other Commodities necessary for the Northern Countries; that is, Wines and Brandy, Syrups, Apples, Chestnuts, Soap, Paper, Hats, Brocades, Ribands, Iron-Ware and Small Wares from *Paris*; Stuffs made at *Rheims* and *Chalons*; but the Consumption of these Commodities of the *French*, was very much diminished even before the last War, the *Dutch*, their near Neighbours and Enemies, having set up in *Holland* most of their Manufactures; who by reason of the War between the two Nations, resolv'd to seek elsewhere those necessary Provisions they stood so much in need of at Home, and that they might continue and augment their Northern Commerce, entirely abandoned that of *France*, which indeed, by reason of almost continual Wars, was very nigh reduced to nothing.

All the Commodities exported to the North, most of which being necessary for Provisions and Cloathing, are paid for with the Commodities of the Country. Corn ought to be reckoned the chief Article amongst the Commodities of the North, that the *Dutch* deal in; and that Trade is one of the most necessary and considerable they can have in the *Baltick*; for they not only bring thence sufficient for their own Subsistence, but send vast Quantities into

*France*

*France* at a prodigious Price, as well as into *Italy*, *Spain* and *Portugal*, nay even into *Flanders* it self, in a scarce Year.

The *Dutch* employ commonly in this Trade only, 7 or 800 Ships, that go for Wheat and other Grain to the Ports of the *Baltick*-Sea, *Hamburg* and *Dantzick* it self, and sometimes as far as *Muscovy*.

The several sorts of Grain they chiefly bring thence into *Holland*, are, *Turkish* Wheat, or Buck-Wheat, Linseed, Rice, Millet, and Hempseed; *Dantzick* is the principal Port whence they chiefly have these sorts of Grain and Seed; they export great Quantities likewise from the Ports of *Livonia*, *Prussia*, *Pomerania*, *Holstein*, *Denmark* and *Sweden*.

Next to this the most considerable is the Wood or Timber Trade; for not only their Shipping consume vast Quantities, but they use besides no less in making Tuns, Pipes, Barrels, and other Cask; not including what is used in Houses, Buildings, small Boats, Dikes, Piles, and Fortifications, both by Sea and Land. They sell also not a little to the *French* and *Spaniards* at very high Rates; but all this is nothing to that prodigious Quantity they use in building Ships and other Vessels, which are continually employ'd either for their own Use or other Nations. Fir or Deal they have chiefly from *Norway* and *Sweden*. The *Baltick* likewise supplies them with fine Oaks and Oak-Planks for Coopers



Work. Ship-Masts, as I observed before, come from *Norway*, *Muscovy*, *Riga*, *Nerva*, *Revel* and *Dantzick*. The *Dutch* bring besides great Quantities of Timber into *Holland*, by the Rivers *Rhine*, *Elbe*, and *Weser*; so that this may be reckon'd as one of the most important and necessary Trades to their Republick. To be convinced of this, one need only see their Magazine at *Sardam*.

Hemp and Flax make one of the most advantageous Articles of the Trade of the North: 'Tis very easy to judge, that the Quantity that comes thence must be prodigious, being sufficient to furnish almost all the Ports of *Europe*. This Commodity of Hemp comes from *Riga*, *Konigsberg*, *Nerva*, *Revel* and *Muscovy*.

The *Dutch* deal also in vast Quantities of Wooll, which they transport from all Parts of the North, as well from *Poland*, *Prussia*, and *Pomerania*, as from *Denmark*, *Holstein*, *Mecklenberg*, *Silesia*, *Saxony*, *Brandenburg*, and the other Countries of the *Lower-Germany*; as likewise, in a great deal of Linnen from *Silesia*, which is particularly employ'd in the Trade to *Spain* and the Coast of *Africa*.

They make very rich Returns in Sables and other Furs from *Muscovy*; thence come likewise Skins ready drest, or Leather, as well as from *Poland*, *Prussia* and *Denmark*: That which we call *Russia-Leather*, which is made of the Hides of Cows and Oxen, is drest by  
the

the *Muscovites* in such a Manner, as no where else to be imitated. This Trade is very considerable, and they vend great Quantities of these Commodities in *France*, *Spain* and *Italy*.

From *Muscovy* comes also the fine Beaver-Fur, to make Hats; this Fur is for the most part very soft and silky; and the *Muscovites* have it in great Quantities brought to them in whole Skins from *Canada*, and is the finest in the World; they have an Art to Dress them so advantageously, as to make the Fur very long and thick, and with these Skins they border and line their Cloaths.

The Caviear that is brought from *Muscovy*, and is made of the Spawn of Sturgeons, is a good Commodity in *Italy*: They pretend that there goes out every Year from *Arch-Angel*, bound directly for *Leghorn* and *Venice*, at least 3 or 4 Ships, which are above one fourth Part laden with Caviear; the rest of the Lading is of *Russia* Leather.

The Wax-Trade is very advantageous to the *Dutch*, and which they likewise carry on in the North, this Commodity being subject neither to spoil or waste; and this they sell and trade with in the greatest and best Parts of *Europe* for immense Sums; and the Consumption in *America* is no less. Therefore this Commodity ought to be considered as one of the greatest Articles of Trade between *Hol-*

*land* and *Spain*: The Yellow Wax, which comes from the North, is chiefly the produce of *Poland* and *Muscovy*, Countries where the Bees seem to have chosen principally to reside.

Yellow or Fat Amber is no where found, or fished for, but in the Banks of the Ducal *Prussia*, (now the Kingdom of that Name :) I have been assured from good Hands, that the Farming only of that Fishery, brought yearly into the Elector of *Brandenburg*'s Coffers no less than seventy five Thousand Livres. The Brown Amber is the Product also of that new Kingdom, and serves to Trade with even to *Guinea* and the *East-Indies*.

Ashes are a great Article in the Northern Trade, and chiefly come from *Dantzick*, *Königsberg* and *Muscovy*; but the last are esteemed the best: They deal for vast Quantities, to make black Soap and scower Cloth.

Pitch and Tar being Things absolutely necessary for Navigation, to caulk and otherwise fortify Ships, Boats and other Vessels, there is a vast Consumption of these in *Holland*, They have the greatest Quantities from *Stockholm* and *Wirtzburg*, but what comes from *Muscovy* is the dearest.

The *Dutch* export a great deal of Tallow from *Muscovy*, tho' it be not so good as their own; they likewise are furnished with it from *Germany*.

Iron comes chiefly from *Sweden*, and Steel from *Dantzick*.

Copper from *Sweden* and *Norway*; but that from *Sweden* is best, and in greater Quantities than elsewhere.

The *Dutch* are supplied from the North, and especially *Sweden*, with several sorts of Arms and warlike Stores; and that in such large Quantities, as not only to furnish them sufficiently for their own Fleets and Armies, but to bring them in besides prodigious Sums of Money, by trading with these Commodities to almost all other Nations. I take no notice of a great many other Particulars of the Northern Trade, being Matters of less Moment, but pass them over in silence, as I have other things of the like Nature, in relating to the Trade of other Countries.

It is easie to see by the Variety and great Quantity of Merchandize, that the Trade of the North must needs be of extream Importance to the *Dutch*, since it supplies them with almost every thing that is necessary for their Subsistence and Navigation; this makes them omit nothing to preserve it: They have strenuously oppos'd the Northern Powers, whenever they have endeavour'd to make themselves Masters of it (as *Sweden* amongst the rest has often attempted to do) and then they have ever taken Care, by all means, to hinder too great Imposts or Customs to be laid on such  
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Merchandize as come from thence, or are transported thither; and to compass this, they have more than once engaged in long and tedious Wars.

The House of *Austria* well knew that the only way to sap the very Foundation of the Republick of *Holland*, would be to deprive her of the Trade of the *Baltick*, which made *Ferdinand II.* endeavour with all his Power, to make himself Lord of that Sea. That House has since made frequent Attempts to trouble their Commerce, but with very little Success.

I design one time or other, more fully to set forth what the *Dutch* have done in relation to their Trade, either by private Négociations or open Force: But in the mean while I shall say this in short, that one of the Fundamental Maxims of their Government, is, by all means possible to hinder the Merchants of the North to Trade in too great Numbers to the Southern and Western Parts of *Europe*, and these on the other hand, from trading in too great Numbers to the North.

This Republick being so advantagiously situated in the middle of both, will always with her utmost Power endeavour that the Trade of *Europe* should not be carried on but through her hands, by which means she will always have that good Fortune of knowing the Secret, how to sell all sorts of Merchandize cheaper than any other Country;  
and



and almost as cheap as where they were first made and produc'd.

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## CHAP. VI.

*Of the Trade of the Elbe, Wezer, Rhine, and the Maese.*

THE Dutch carry on good part of the *German Trade* by way of these Rivers; the three last of which dissembogue themselves into their Estates: This Trade is very advantageous on account of the Provisions and Merchandize that are convey'd to them by these ways, as by the great Consumption that is made, by what is sent back in Return.

The *Elbe* takes its Source in *Bohemia*, and after having travers'd that Kingdom, and the Electorates of *Saxony*, *Brandenburg* and *Hanover*, falls into the Ocean about 20 Leagues below *Hamburg*.

'Tis in this City (the most rich and flourishing in all *Germany* for Trade) that the Dutch secure to themselves that of the *Elbe*; that is, the Trade of the best part of the Provinces of the *Lower Germany*.

The Dutch carry to *Hamburg* such Commodities as arise from their own Manufactures of Silk and Wool, small Wares, Spices, Drugs, and other Necessaries.

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Hence they have their Brass Wire, White Iron (as they call it) or Tin'd Plates made in *Saxony*, Corn, Timber for Shipping, and for the most part, all other Commodities of the North.

The *Dutch* sometimes go up the *Elbe* as far as *Harburgh* and *Madgeburgh*, where they lade great Quantities of Wood and Wine (which they buy there) and sometimes hew down whole Forests, and take away the Wood as they have Occasion.

The People of *Hamburg*, in short, have such a considerable Trade to all the Ports of *Europe*, that their City has gain'd the Name of little *Amsterdam*.

The *Wezer*, like the *Elbe*, runs thro' a good part of the fertile Provinces of the *Lower Germany*. The City of *Bremen*, which is situated on this River, 15 Leagues before its falling into the Sea, is a Place of great Trade, both active and passive; and I am very well inform'd it has the right of *Staple*. The Provinces bordering on the *Wezer*, and the Rivers that fall into it all along its vast Course, furnish *Bremen* with excellent Timber, of greater Esteem and Value, and much dearer than that of *Norway* and the *Baltick*; as also Wheat, Wool, several sorts of Mettals, and Beer; that of *Brunswick*, call'd *Mum*, is the best and most esteem'd, a great deal of which,  
as

as well as that of *Bremen*, is sent to the *East Indies*.

The *Dutch* buy these, with their Silk and Woollen Stuffs, and sometimes with their small Wares and Wood for Dying, as Logwood, &c. The whole Trade of the River *Ems*, that runs thro' all *Westphalia*, is at *Emden*, a Town of vast Trade, well affected to the *United Provinces*. Besides the Horses and Oxen the *Dutch* bring from *East Friezland*; Hams, Timber, Woollen, Cloth, Linnen of several sorts, (made by the Inhabitants of the Bishopricks of *Munster* and *Paderborn*) come down the River of *Ems* to *Emden*.

The Trade of the *Rhine* is one of the most Important the *Dutch* have; for besides, that this River is Navigable almost every where from *Switzerland* (where it has its Source) to its falling into the *Holland* Seas; it takes along with its Stream (which is almost 300 Leagues in length) many large Rivers, of which the *Moselle* and *Mein* are the most considerable. The many rich and fruitful Provinces that it washes, furnish *Holland* with a vast Quantity of rich Merchandize, with which she again, supplies other Countries.

*Cologne*, the most considerable of all the Towns on the *Rhine*, and long since celebrated for Commerce, is a Place of the principal Trade of that River, as well as of the *Moselle*; 'tis the great Mart for Rhenish Wines, which  
are

are there bought up for the *United Provinces*, where there is a prodigious Consumption of them.

The *Moselle*, which runs thro' all *Lorraine* and the whole Electorate of *Triers*, falls into the *Rhine* at *Coblentz*, and unlades there vast Quantities of its Wines.

There comes down to *Cologne*, by these two Rivers, a great deal of excellent Oak. Besides Wine and Timber; the *Dutch* bring thence, Iron Cannons and Bullets, and send thither from *Holland* their own Manufactures of Silk and Woollen Stuffs, Spices, Sugar, Cheese, Herrings, and other Necessaries: These Goods are likewise disposed of to all the other Towns on the *Rhine* and *Moselle*; from whence come the same sort of Merchandize in Return, as from *Cologne*, tho' not in that abundance, or with so much conveniency.

The *Mein* that looses itself in the *Rhine* near *Mentz*, after having travers'd all *Frankonia*, (one of the finest and most fertile Countries of all *Germany*,) has open'd a Way for a vast Trade in *Frankfort*, its Capital City, where there are two noted Fairs kept every Year; the *Dutch* come thither to buy Iron and Cutlers Ware (made at *Nuremberg*) Copper, and great Quantities of other Merchandize; and bring thither from their own Country, Silk, Cloth, small Wares, Ribands, Spices, Drugs, and all sorts of Wood for dying.

In short, there is not a Town near the *Rhine* and the Rivers that flow into it, but consumes a World of Goods of the growth and Manufactory of *Holland*, in exchange of their own. The Dutchiës of *Juliers* and *Berghs*, belonging to the Elector *Palatine*, furnish Flax, Thread, and Linnen, as do all the other Countries thereabout.

By the *Maese*, the *Dutch* carry on a great Trade, particularly with the Towns of *Liege* and *Aix la Chapelle*; the first is situated on that River, and the other not far off, but almost all the Trade of the *Meuse* is at *Liege*, where are sold Serges, Slate, Pit Coal, Iron and Steel Work, Bullets, Bombs, Granadoes, Arms, Lead, Brazier's Ware, made at *Aix la Chapelle*, (which has its Brass and Copper from *Holland* and *Liege*.) Into this last Town the *Dutch* bring all sorts of Merchandize made of Silk and Wool, Spices, and Drugs for the Surgeon and Apothecary.

The *Dutch* ever had a watchful Eye to preserve the Liberties of *Cologne*, and the Navigation of the *Rhine*: They have in like manner frequently protected the Liberties of *Hamburg* against the Attempts of the Kings of *Denmark*; and those of *Bremen*, against the *Swede*; till some Reasons of State made them permit the last to fall under the Dominion of the Crown of *Sweden*. In short, they have always a particular Care not to suffer any new Customs



Customs or Imposts to be laid on the Navigation of these five Rivers ; by means of which they drive such an advantageous Trade, and render themselves so formidable ; by these means, they have extended their Territories much beyond their usual Limits, and have been for six Years together entire Masters of the Electorate of *Cologne*, and Principality of *Liege*.

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## CHAP. VII.

### *Of the Trade of the Spanish Netherlands.*

THIS Country heretofore, the Seat or Centre of a prodigious Trade, has now very little, by the great Application and Address of the *Dutch*, and particularly the People of *Amsterdam*, to hinder even its recovery again in *Flanders*, especially at *Antwerp*. In the Truce made in the Year 1609, the *Spaniards* would have oblig'd them to take off the Imposts they laid on the Navigation of the *Scheld* and other Rivers during the War, which gave a great Blow to the Trade of the *Low Countries* ; but the States General would never consent to it, in hopes entirely to ruine the

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Commerce of the *Low Countries* subject to the Crown of *Spain*, and draw it to themselves.

When they made Peace with *Spain*, at the Treaty of *Munster*, they took all imaginable Precautions lest Commerce should be re-establish'd at *Antwerp* thro' a long Peace; not doubting but the advantagious Situation of that City for Trade, would once again revive it, if not timely obstructed: They stipulated then that they should keep the *Scheld* block'd up, that all Merchandize that went up that River should pay certain Customs at the Fort of *Ryffel*, and that Ships and large Vessels should pass no further, but unlade their Goods into Boats and small Barks, to carry them to *Antwerp*.

They had no Apprehension that Trade should ever flourish again at *Bruges* or *Ghent*, since they were Masters of the Canals of Communication of *Sluice* and *Sas Van Ghent*, to the very Sea.

I am very well satisfy'd the *Dutch* would never have consented to a Peace with *Spain*, how advantagious soever it might be, had they not seen it in their Power to hinder the re-establishment of Commerce in *Flanders*.

The Trade the *Dutch* drive in *Flanders* and *Brabant*, (both in Obedience to the King of *Spain*,) is principally establish'd at *Antwerp*, *Ghent*, *Bruges*, and *Mechlin*; The chief Commodities they deal for in these Provinces, es-

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pecially in the Towns of *Antwerp*, *Brussels*, and *Mechlin*, are Thread, and Lace, which they make with that admirable Beauty and large Quantities, as is almost incredible.

From *Ghent* and *Bruges* they fetch a vast Quantity of fine Linnen of all sorts, as well for the Table, as other uses: The first of these is famous for *Serges*, the other for *Sheeps Leather*; *Brussels* and *Audenarde* for *Tapestry*, where a long while since began those excellent Manufactures that gave Birth to those of the *Gobelins* in *Paris*, which for many Years past has been, and now is, the most famous Work-house in the World.

To these Towns they send their own Manufactures of Stuffs made of Silk and Wool, Spices, Drugs, Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, and a great Quantity of Muslins, and *Indian Stuffs* of all sorts.

To this one may add, the Trade they have with *Lisle*, *Tournay* and *Mons*, of which they have made themselves Masters by the Force of their Arms, and those of the High Allies; the Trade of *Lisle* consists chiefly in a sort of Linnen called there *Toiles Baptistes*, and *Barancans*, or coarse Camblets.

The *Dutch*, in short, are Masters of all the Trade of the *Low Countries*, and that with all the Liberty, Authority, and Ease imaginable, by reason of their bordering on those Provinces, and the Advantage they have  
of

of the Rivers and Canals that run by, and thro' all the Principal Towns, and wonderfully facilitate the Carriage of all sorts of Goods from one to another, with great Expedition and very little Expence.

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## CHAP. VIII.

### *Of the Trade with England.*

THE Neighbourhood of these two Nations has for many Years since establish'd a mutual Commerce between them; but it has sometimes been interrupted: In the Usurpation of *Cromwel*, the Parliament made a Law prohibiting every Nation to bring into *England* any Goods or Merchandizes but what were of their own Growth and Manufactory.

This Prohibition was principally levelled at the *Dutch*, whose Country produc'd very little that *England* had Occasion for, and had not then any thing like the Manufactures they have at this Day. But at that time, it was thought prudent not to let those People grow too great, or rival *England* in Trade. However the *English*, I believe, were not over severe in relation to the Importation of Spices from *Holland*, the *Dutch* being Masters of

them, and which could not be had but thro' their means. The *Dutch* on the contrary, permitted the *English* to bring into their Ports all sort of Goods, whether they were of the Growth of *England*, or not.

The *English* bring into *Holland* their Woollen Cloths of their own Manufactory, and other Stuffs, both of Wool and Silk, Tin, Lead, Vitriol, Pitcoal, *Virginia* Tobacco, *Barbadoes* Sugar, and other Sugars of *America*.

The Woollen Manufactures that come from *England* into *Holland*, are the chief Article of that Trade, their Stuffs sell readily; Strangers, and particularly the *Germans*, come to buy them: At first, the *English* kept their Store-House for Cloth at *Middlebourg* in *Zealand*, then at *Delft*, after that at *Rotterdam*, and now at *Dort*, the Magistrates having granted them Privileges for that very Purpose: There are certain Days when they open their Stores to every Body, but they generally open them when they have receiv'd a considerable Quantity of Cloth, and they give Notice some time before by Circular Letters.

Lead and Tin which the *English* carry to *Holland*, next to their Cloth and Stuffs, make the most considerable Article.

The Trade of the *English* with the *Dutch*, is carried on by the *Meuse*, the Passage from *England* being very easy, but I believe their Goods sell best at *Amsterdam*; they take from the

*Dutch*



*Dutch* their fine Linnens in Payment, and Canvis for Sails, as also great Quantities of Paper, since that Republick has set up that Manufactory, and a great Quantity of Silks of their making, especially when the *English* prohibited Trade with *France*.

The *Scotch* since the Year 1612, have set up a Glas-House in *Zealand*, where they make Glas much after the *English* Way; they bring thither great Quantities of Coal, but not near so good as the *English*; several Woollen Stuffs of their own Manufactory, and particularly Worsted Stockings; and if I am not mistaken a great deal of Ox and Cow Hides, Calves and Sheeps Leather, Dogs and Rabbits Skins, as also Lead and Tallow.

The *Irish* have no Store-Houses in all *Holland*, their greatest Trade is from *Dublin*, *Cork* and *Waterford*, where they Transport to *Holland* pickled Beef in Barrels, Butter, Tallow, Bulls and Cows Hides, Freezes, and other Woollen Stuffs.

The absolute Necessity that the *Dutch* have of the *English* Ports on the Channel, is one of the principal Reasons that makes them suffer that great Inequality in the respective Liberty of the Trade between the two Nations, and to suit themselves to the Laws the *English* have made, in relation thereto.

## CHAP. IX.

*Of the Trade with France.*

**T**HE Trade the *Dutch* have with *France* since the Establishment of their Republick. has been very considerable in respect of the Number, Quantity and Quality of the Merchandize they bring thither, and carry thence every Year. That which *France* furnishes them with, are equally necessary to them for their own Subsistence, and their keeping up their Trade with other Nations.

The Principal Things they have from *France*, are Corn of all kinds, when the Years are good, Wines of all sorts, particularly those of *Grave*, *Champagne* and *Burgundy*, Honey, Saffron, large and small Chestnuts, Hazel Nuts, Turpentine, Rozin, Crayons, Verdugrease, Soap, Wax, Cork, Carduus; to these may be added, Silks, Taffaties, Gold and Silver Tissues, Stuffs of Amiens, Chalons and Rheims, Paper, Parchment, Hats, Small Wares, and Iron Ware, both small and great, and a world of other Goods which are (as they call them) the Merchandize of *Paris*, as Belts, Girdles, Combs, Looking-glasses, Trunkers, Toys, Gloves, and Head-dresses.

All these different sorts of Commodities are sent by the *Dutch* into all the Provinces of the *North, Germany, the Low Countries, Spain and Portugal, Italy, the Levant, the Coasts of Africa*, and even the *Indies*. In short to all the Climates of the World, where these famous Merchants have carried and extended their Traffick.

They furnish the *French* in Return with all sorts of Spices, Cloth, Drugs, as well for Medicines as Painting ; all sorts of Woods for Dying ; all sorts of Linnen Cloth, &c. They bring from the North, Copper, Steel, Brass Wire, tin'd Plates, or white Iron, Cannons, Muskets; and other Arms, Gunpowder, Sulphur, Matches, *Russia* Leather, Furrs, Flax, Hemp, Pitch and Tar, Masts, Planks, and other Timber for building Ships or Houses ; to these may be added Herrings, and other Salt Fish, Butter, Cheese, Tallow, and a great Quantity of other Merchandize, to specify which, would be very difficult and tedious.

The Advantage and Benefit *France* has found by that Trade, and the Reasons of State which united her to this Republick against the House of *Austria*, have made her favour such Commerce in several Treaties with the States, and granted them many Privileges ; this together with the Neighbourhood of the two Nations, made the *French* Trade very easy to the *Dutch* ; besides, the *French* being

unskill'd in the Art of Navigation, the *Dutch* only were employ'd in making trading Voyages to all Parts, this filled the *French* Ports continually with *Dutch* Vessels, which ever were taking off their Superfluities, and the Vent of their Commodities, especially Stuffs and other home Manufactures was very great, and encreased in proportion as the *Dutch* had Liberty to come into their Ports and Harbours; this made the *French* Trade flourish very much, and gave a Value to their Manufactures.

The good understanding between the two Nations began to lessen, when the Treaty of *Munster* was on Foot, and as the *French* at that time thought they had reason to be displeased with the *Dutch*, they refused to renew the ancient Treaties of Commerce.

They let their Pirates disturb their Mediterranean Trade, which made People believe a War would have ensued at that time between the two Nations; and the *French* made them believe they would prohibit all *Dutch* Merchandize, at least lay new Duties on what should come into their Ports. Monsieur *Boreel*, who was then their Ambassador in *France*, represented boldly to that Court, that other People would be oblig'd in like manner, to lay new Duties on all *French* Goods, which would infallibly very much diminish their Consumption, and consequently be of Prejudice to that Kingdom. The *French* pretended to be ignorant (or

(or perhaps were really so) of the vast Quantities of their Merchandize that went out of their Country to Foreign Parts, and told him roundly that the thing was not so considerable as he represented it to them, and that it was only the Interest of his Country made him talk after that manner.

To undeceive them, that Gentleman made it appear to the Court that their Republick expended every Year above thirty five Millions of *Livres* in *French* Commodies.

*This is the Account taken out of the Registers of their Custom-House, in the Year 1659, and which that Ambassador gave in to the French Court.*

	<i>Livres.</i>
IN Cloths, Velvets, Sattins, Gold and Silver Tissues, Taffaties of <i>Lyons, Tons, and Paris</i> , above six Millions.	6000000
Silk Ribbons, Silk and Thread Laces, Buttons, tag Laces made at <i>Paris</i> and <i>Roan</i> , and the Towns thereabouts.	2000000
Castors, Vigones, Caudebeos, or Hats of <i>Paris</i> and <i>Roan</i> .	1500000
<i>Paris</i> Pendulums and Watches, and such like Goods, two Millions.	2000000
Gloves from <i>Paris, Roan, and</i> <i>Vendome</i> , above.	1500000
	Worsted



	<i>Livres.</i>
Worsted Spun in <i>Picardy</i> , above	1500000
Paper of all sorts, <i>viz. Auvergne,</i>	2000000
<i>Limosin, Poitou, Champagne</i> and	
<i>Normandy.</i>	
Pins and Needles made at <i>Paris</i>	5000000
and in <i>Normandy</i> , Ebony Box,	
and Ivory Combs.	
Small Iron and Steel Ware from	5000000
<i>Auvorgue.</i>	
Linnen from <i>Normandy</i> , and	5000000
<i>Britany.</i>	
Chamber Furniture, as Beds,	5000000
Quilts, Canopies, Blankets, Silk	
Fringes.	
Wines of <i>Bourdeaux, Gascony,</i>	5000000
<i>Xaintonge, Orleans, Anjou, Nantz,</i>	
<i>&amp;c.</i>	
Brandies and Vinegars	1500000
Saffron, Soap, Honey, Almonds,	2000000
Olives, Capers, Prunes, <i>&amp;c.</i>	
Monsieur <i>Boreel</i> added, that be-	
sides, this 5 or 600 Vessels, every	
Year, came laden from <i>Rochelle,</i>	
<i>Marans, Brouage</i> , the Isles of <i>Ree</i>	
and <i>Oloron</i> , which he did not	6000000
reckon, no more than vast Quan-	
tity of Wheat and other Corn,	
and Hemp which they transport-	
ed to <i>Holland</i> , in plentiful Years,	
and often amounted to six Millions.	

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This Representation and other Politick Reasons (which is not my Business to meddle with) made the *French* change their Stile, and there was no more Talk of new Duties and Imposts. In short, after long Disputes upon the new Duty of Freight of 50 Sols *per* Tun, the *French* in the Year 1662, signed a Treaty of Commerce with the States General, and which was to be a lasting one. This Treaty made both the *Dutch* and *French* Merchants hope, that a Commerce so very useful and advantageous to the two Nations would be considerably augmented; but their Hopes were frustrated, and they saw with Sorrow it sensibly lessened in the Year 1667, when the *French* encreased the Duties on Foreign Merchandize, without having any manner of Regard to the Treaty of 1662. They had for some Years, it seems, entertain'd a Notion that they could carry on a Trade after a new unheard of Method, They pretended to sell their Goods to their Neighbours, and buy none of theirs.

It must be allow'd, a finer Project never could be invented to fill *France* with Gold and Silver; I call it a fine, not pernicious Project, but it has been found by unhappy Experience, it was altogether impracticable.

To put this Project in Execution, the first thing they did was to set up an *East India* Company, as also others for the *Levant* and  
Nor-

Northern Trade, in order to furnish themselves with such Merchandize of those Countries as they should have Occasion of, and in Return, with what might be necessary for their Use without having recourse to Strangers.

To quit themselves entirely of Foreign Assistance, they began to set up in *France* the Manufacturies of other Countries, imagining at the same time, those other Countries could not be without *French* Goods and Provisions, and that they would take off the same Quantities as usual, and by consequence would be oblig'd to pay ready Money when they saw the *French* take no more of theirs in Return : 'Twas on this View that in the Year 1667, the *French* laid new Duties on Foreign Goods, especially Manufactures, which consequently made them much dearer than their own, and was done, with intent to make the People prefer their own to Foreign Manufactures.

The *Dutch* seeing themselves attackt in the most sensible Part, so well travers'd this new Establishment of the *French* Companies, that at last they fell of themselves. They forgot nothing that might ruine the Manufactures of *France*, they set up for making themselves those very Goods they used to have from *France*, and sold them much cheaper than the *French* could do ; Reasons of State joined to those of Trade, and the Enmity of, both Parties

Parties to each other, broke out at last into an open War, which was properly speaking a Trade War. The Conduct of the *Dutch* during the Treaty of *Aix la Chapelle*, the Triple Alliance made afterwards with *England* and *Sweden* for the Preservation of the rest of the *Spanish Low Countries*, and their Gasconading Language made the King resolve they should feel his Resentment. To humble this Republick, it was thought nothing would go so far as the ruining their Trade, by laying still new Duties on such Merchandize as should be brought into *France*, or else entirely to prohibit it.

The States-General try'd all ways to engage the *French* to regulate their Duties upon Entries by the Tariff made in the Year 1664. and to execute the Treaty of Commerce of the Year 1662; but finding they could do nothing, they began to fight the *French* with their own Weapons; that is, they prohibited all *French* Wines and Brandies entering their Ports, and laid new Duties upon all Goods of the *French* Manufactory; and the Provisions and other Merchandize that a long time before they us'd continually to have from *France*, they then bought and dealt for from other Parts; the *French* soon perceived a very great Diminution of their Commerce: The War coming on between *France* and *Holland* in the Year 1672, Trade on both sides was entirely prohibited.

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However, Monsieur *Colbert* happily foreseeing, that 'twould be a very difficult Matter for *France* to continue long a War (wherein probably all *Europe* might be engag'd against her) if no Body took off her Goods and Merchandizes, gave Passports to every one that would come and trade thither; and to this wise and sage Conduct, may be justly attributed good part of the happy Success which afterwards attended that Kingdom.

That War ending by the Treaty of *Nimeguen*, which was concluded the 10th of *August* 1678. the very same Day a new Treaty of Commerce was struck up, in which it was agreed, that the *French* and *Dutch* should enjoy reciprocally the same Liberty, in respect of Commerce and Navigation, in each other's Dominions, as they did before the beginning of that War. In Consequence of this Treaty, the Tariff of 1667 was entirely abolish'd in favour of the *Dutch*; and that of 1664 was set up in its stead, generally for all sorts of Goods whatsoever, that they should bring into that Kingdom, or export thence. One would have thought that this would have establish'd a lasting Commerce between the two Nations. However, in the beginning of the Year 1680, the *French* Provisions and other Goods, especially Silks, bore no Price at *Amsterdam*; and those that traded thither were very sensible, that oftentimes they rather lost than gain'd.



as I have elsewhere observ'd : So true is it, that Commerce once destroy'd, never again recovers it self. Those Gentlemen who had the Management of Affairs after the Death of Monsieur *Colbert*, without having any manner of regard to this last Treaty, set up the Tariff of 1667, and considerably augmented the Duties, in hopes to augment the Sale of their own Manufactures. The *Dutch* seeing their Commerce continually attack'd in such open manner, and that they had no hopes of re-establiſhing Matters on the ancient Footing, apply'd themselves more than ever, with all Care and Diligence, to put themselves in that Condition, as never more to have occasion of the *French* Manufactures ; and they succeeded so well in this last Article, that they set up amongst themselves those very Manufacturies ; as, the making Silks, Gold and Silver Brocades, Hats, Paper, Ribands, and Laces, &c. And the *French*, since that time, have found to their no small Detriment, a prodigious Decrease of their Trade in these several Articles. I believe it may very truly be said, that these Trade-Quarrels were partly the Cause of the Wars breaking out again, between *France* and the *United Provinces*, in the Year 1690. The Declaration of this War was followed by the most severe and longest Prohibition of Commerce that ever was known, and has hitherto continu'd ; and 'tis to be fear'd, will only

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make the *Dutch* know, they can very easily let the *French* Provisions alone. Time will make it appear, whether after the Peace, the *Dutch* will resort to the Ports of *France* with such Numbers of Merchants-Ships as before; and we shall see whether they will take off such vast Quantities of Provisions, and Goods of the *French* Manufacture, as in times past; 'tis much to be wish'd they would, as well for the Benefit of Commerce, as the Good of the State.

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## CHAP. X.

### Of the Trade with Spain.

**N**OTWITHSTANDING the Revolt of the *Dutch* from *Spain*, *Philip* the Second pretended he knew nothing of their Trading in his Dominions, under the Colours of his Allies; and tho' he saw very well, that such Trading must inevitably furnish them wherewith to maintain their Revolt, yet he did not think it worth his while to deprive them of it. It was the general Opinion, that that Prince acted after that manner, because he had occasion for the Merchandize of the North to equip his Fleets, and which he could have no other way but by means of the *Dutch*.

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it was believ'd he was likewise afraid, that if he should shut them out of the *Spanish* Ports, they would, being very powerful at Sea, open themselves a Way into the New World. However, notwithstanding this Connivance of that Monarch, the *Spaniards* in time treated the *Dutch* Merchants, that traded to *Spain*, with such Cruelty, and laid on them such heavy Duties, that they were forc'd to leave off trading thither, as well as to *Portugal*, which then was subject to *Philip*. The Merchants and Seamen that were employ'd in that Trade, after it thus expired, took a Resolution to look out for those Goods in *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*, which they used to have from *Seville* and *Lisbon*; and this was one of the principal Causes of the Rise of that Republick, and the Decay of the *Spanish* Monarchy.

*Philip* the Third, having succeeded his Father, *Philip* the Second, in the Month of *September*, 1598. seeing plainly that all Endeavours that were used to bring the *Dutch* to a Peace, proved ineffectual, resolved to forbid them all manner of Trade whatsoever with his Subjects, hoping that by taking away that which supported them to that time in their War, they would have no mind to continue it, when they should see themselves depriv'd of such Support. It was visible, that all the Riches of *Holland* were the Effects of their Navigation and Trade, and that their greatest Traffick

was with *Spain*, whither they not only carried the Merchandize of their own State, but Corn from *Poland* and other Northern Countries, that they might in Exchange carry home vast Quantities of Gold and Silver.

*Philip* the Third executed his Edict with a great deal of Severity ; a very exact Search was made all over *Spain* for *Dutch* Merchants and Sailors ; some of which were condemn'd to perpetual Imprisonment and the Gallies ; others were cruelly put to Death by several kinds of Tortures. This Interdiction of Commerce was likewise published in the *Low Countries*, in the Name of the Princess *Isabella*, who was at that time their Sovereign.

The States General, on the other hand, were not contented with barely prohibiting all Commerce with *Spain*, they likewise forbid all other Nations bringing into their Country any Provisions, or other Commodities whatsoever, from *Spain*, declaring, that all that did so should be esteemed *Spanish* Partisans, and be treated as Enemies. A Copy of this Declaration of the States-General was sent to all Princes, that they might not pretend Ignorance.

*France* came into the *Dutch* Scheme, and declared, that if after 6 Months any of her Subjects should trade with *Spain*, they would, in so doing, expose themselves to such Inconveniencies, as the Crown would not concern  
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it self to remedy ; and the other Powers likewise acquiesced to this bold Declaration.

Notwithstanding these severe Prohibitions of the *Spaniards*, the *Dutch*, as before, traded to all the *Spanish* Countries, by means of Passports, the *Spaniards* themselves gave them for Money, which they often wanted to carry on their Affairs. In short, the Truce of twelve Years was concluded between *Spain* and the *United Provinces* in the Year 1609, and by it the Freedom of Trade was re-establish'd between the two Nations ; and amongst other things it was agreed, That the Traders of each Nation should pay no greater Duties, than the Inhabitants or Allies of such Nations who paid the lowest Customs ; and that the *Dutch* might be secured from apprehending any thing from the Inquisition, it was agreed, that they should enjoy the same Liberty as was stipulated to the *English* some time before, in the Articles of the Treaty of *Velasco*, which the Constable of *Castile* had made with the Crowns of *Spain* and *England*.

The War that was revived in the Year 1621, after the Expiration of that Truce, interrupted the Trade of both Nations till the Year 1648, when they concluded a perpetual Peace at *Munster* ; and from that time the Trade the *Dutch* drove with *Spain* became much more considerable than ever, by reason of those Privileges that Crown yielded to them.



in that Treaty. Those great Advantages they offered the United Provinces, was one of the principal Means they made use of to draw the States from the *French* Interest, and to make a Separate Peace with them, and which in Effect, was the saving of that Monarchy.

The *Dutch* Trade with *Spain* continued from that time till now, that is, till the breaking out of this present War, which began in the Year 1702, on Account of the Partition Treaty which was designed to exclude *Philip V.* the present King, from succeeding *Charles II.* whose lawful Heir and Successor he was. It is worth while to observe, how Reasons of State have united these two Nations, the most averse to each other in the World, and whose hatred especially that of the *Spaniards* seemed irreconcilable.

The *Spaniards* favour'd the *Dutch* in their Trade as much as they possibly could, particularly since the Year 1667, in hopes to have ruined that of the *French*, and they were not unsuccessful in that respect; but the *Dutch* Trade never flourish'd so much in *Spain* as since the War between *France* and *Holland*; begun in the Year 1672, to the beginning of this present War; for they not only furnish the *Spaniards* with such Goods as they used to have from *France*, but furnish themselves likewise from *Spain* with what *France* used to supply

ply them with before the several Wars of 1672, and 1690.

The *Dutch* traded very much to all those Places that were subject to *Spain*, as *Flanders* and *Brabant*, &c. before this present War, and which she has now lost, as well as those which the *French* lost some time after, that is to say, during the three last Campaigns: But their chief Trade of all was that of *Cadiz* and in the Mediterranean. 'Tis in that famous Port of *Spain*, where the Galleons are equipt out for *Peru*, and the *Flotilla* for *Mexico* and *New Spain*, and which return thither with their rich lading from those Empires, and bring almost all the Gold and Silver we see in *Europe*; however, tho' the *Spaniards* are the Masters of those Countries where Gold and Silver grow in such abundance, yet it is very true that they have less of either than those Nations that Trade with them, which shews that Mines of Gold and Silver contribute much less to the enriching of a Country than Trade and Commerce.

What follows, is a true Account of the Goods and Merchandize the *Dutch* used to carry into *Spain* and bring thence, before the last Rupture.

That which they imported consisted chiefly of Linnen of all sorts, Woollen Stuffs, a great Number of Silks, Gold and Silver Stuffs,

Drugs, Spices, small Iron Wares, Masts and Timber.

The Linnen brought into *Spain* by Foreigners, ever was look'd on as the most considerable Article of that Trade, by reason of its vast Consumption both in *Spain* and *America*; the *French* furnish'd the *Spaniards* a long time with this Commodity; I believe I should not exceed the Truth, by affirming that this only Article of the *French* Commerce amounted every Year to about eight Millions of Livres.

The Linnens that the *Dutch* bring into *Spain*, are generally of the finest sort that are made in *Overissel*, and about *Douay* and *Valenciennes*; they sell them in *Spain* by the Name of *Lawns* and *Cambricks*; they vend likewise a certain kind of Linnen, call'd *Perseilles* and *Brabant*; it is very broad and coarse, and serves the poorer sort of People, to wrap up Goods in: Besides this, they sell a World of fine and coarse Callico stain'd in *Holland* with all sorts of Colours, which they make Use of both in *Spain* and *America*, for Lining of Cloaths: I pass by many other sorts of Linnen of less Note, which the *Dutch* bring into *Spain* in time of Peace, as well as Table Linnen, Tapes and Filletings, both white and coloured.

Their Woollen Stuffs are Drabs and Serges, Camlets of all sorts, fine and coarse; these  
Stuffs

Stuffs are all of their own Manufactures, as well as what they call black *Anacostes*.

Tho' this Article may appear very considerable, yet the *Dutch* bring into *Spain* other Goods of a far greater Value ; the several sorts of Silks which they bring in vast Quantities amount to prodigious Sums. The *Spaniards* used formerly to buy their Silks from the *French*, but since the Establishment of these sorts of Manufactures in *Holland*, the *French* have entirely lost that rich Commerce as well as that of Gold and Silver Brocades, which the *Dutch* sell much cheaper. 'Tis true, these rich Stuffs at first were neither so well made, nor so beautified as those made in *France*, but they are now come to that Perfection in *Holland*, that there is but very little Difference. The *Dutch* and they only furnish *Spain* with Cinnamon, Cloves and Nutmegs, and such like Spices ; they serve them likewise with Pepper, but the *English* share with them in that Trade. I have been assur'd, that one third Part of the Cinnamon that the *Dutch* have from the *East Indies*, is consumed in *Spain* and *America*, especially in *Peru*, where their Chocolate makes a vast Consumption.

The *Dutch* likewise dispose of in *Spain*, a considerable Quantity of Drugs from the *Levant*, both for the Apothecary and Painters Use.

I pass over the Article of Musk, Civet, Ambergrease, &c. which amount to no small Sum: They carry also into *Spain* small Iron Ware work'd at *Nuremberg*, *Frankfort* and *Liege*, Steel and Copper-work from *Sweden*, Leather from *Denmark*, and *Russia* Leather for Chairs and Coaches; great Quantities of Paper and Cards which they used to have from *France*, White and Yellow Wax. This last Article is so considerable, that it is believed to exceed four Millions of Livres, as well by the *Dutch* Accounts as those of other Nations that Trade thither. The *Spaniards*, especially those that live in the *Indiës*, consume prodigious Quantities, their chief Delight being to illuminate their Churches Sundays and Holydays.

In the time of Peace the *Spaniards* have from *Holland* Planks, Masts, Cordage, Pitch and Tar, and almost every thing that is necessary for Shipping, besides all sorts of Ammunition and Provisions, as Herrings, Salmon, Butter, Cheese and Corn (when there is a scarce Year, as it often happens in *Spain*) I must not forget Timber for building, nor that sort of Wood they make Pipes, Barrels and Casks of to carry their Wine and Oil in, to *America*. These are the principal Commodities the *Dutch* bring into *Spain*, and which they will again undoubtedly continue to do after the Conclusion of the approaching Peace.



One might add to these the Negro Trade, which Slaves their *East India* Company furnishes the *Spaniards* with for *America*; and this makes no inconsiderable Article in the *Dutch* Trade.

All these Commodities (very few excepted) are equally proper for *Spain* and *America*; but the greatest part is sent into the New World, and *Peru* alone makes a greater Consumption than all *Mexico*.

It must be observ'd as a Matter of Importance, that only the *Spaniards* can Trade to the *West Indies*, and that all Nations else are forbidden on Pain of Death to trade thither, either directly or indirectly. However, by means even of the *Spaniards* themselves, they have found out the Secret to send to those Parts all sorts of Merchandize on their own Account; the Method is to find out some *Spaniard* of Worth and Probity, and entrust him privately to sell your Goods in the *Indies* in his Name, who will certainly do it for you, and return you faithfully your Profits.

This indirect Way of Trading to *America* is very frequent in *Spain*, and it was scarce ever known that a *Spaniard* betray'd his Trust.

The Court of *Madrid* is not unacquainted with these Practices, but Policy makes her connive at them. The *Dutch* have likewise found out the Way of Trading thither secretly

cretly, or indeed to speak better, directly by the way of the Island *Curazao*, which lies not far from the Town of *Cartagena*, the Merchants of that famous Place, and those of the other Towns along the Maritime Coasts, have a very good Understanding with the *Dutch* whom they furnish with the Merchandize of the Country, and carry their Goods even a-board their Vessels while they lie at Anchor in some convenient Place near the Coast; and in exchange receive from them the Merchandize of *Europe*.

The Trade between the new World and *Spain* is carried on by the Galleons and Flotilla: There are besides some few Vessels, but those are but inconsiderable.

The Galleons are design'd, as I hinted before, entirely for the Commerce of *Peru*, which is by far the richest, and the Flotilla for that of *Mexico*. The Galleons may sail from *Cadiz* at any time, but the Flotilla is oblig'd to depart in the Month of *August*, to avoid the Stormy Winds that are very rife in the Gulf of *Mexico*, during the Month of *September*.

These two Fleets keep the same way till they come to the Islands of *Antilles*; thence the Galleons continue their Course till they come to *Cartagena*, and at last to *Portobello*, where is kept the famous Fair between the Merchants of *Peru* and *Spain*.

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The *Flotilla* on the contrary, takes its Course towards the North, and passing between the Islands of *Cuba* and *Jamaica*, arrives at the Port of *Vera Cruz*.

In coming back, the Galleons and *Flotilla* must meet and anchor at the *Havana*, a very famous Port in the Isle of *Cuba*; then they sail together thro' the Canal of *Bahama*, and keeping still in sight of Land, direct their Course Northward as far as the *Azores*, and touch at those Islands whence they fall directly down to *Cadiz*.

And now I am treating of the Commerce of *Spain*, it will not be amiss if I give some particular Account of that Part of it, which has relation to *America*.

What else the *Dutch* and other Nations furnish the *Spaniards* with, is paid for in Money by the Merchants of *America*, as well as of those of *Spain*.

The chief Merchandize of *America* is Gold and Silver, Pearls, Emeralds, Cochinele, Indigo, that which the *French* call *Laine de Vigogne*, Quinquina, Cocoa, Vanilles, Tobacco, Leather, Wood of *Campechy*, and other considerable Commodities.

The Gold and Silver come to *Spain* by the the Galleons and *Flotilla*; but the Galleons as I said before, being design'd only for *Peru*, bring greater Quantities; 'tis chiefly from the Mountain of *Potosi*, in the Province of

*Che-*

*Chereassa*, that almost all the Silver comes that is seen in all the Parts of *Europe*, *Asia*, and the Coasts of *Africa*; and the *Spanish* Pieces of Eight are no less known and sought after in *China*, and all the East (except *Japan*, where there are a great many Mines of Silver) than in all the Countries of *Europe*; that which comes to us from *New Spain*, is dug out of the Mines of *St. Lewis de Zacatecas*, some Leagues from *Mexico*, the Capital City of that Empire.

*Peru*, *Chili*, and the new Kingdom of *Grenada*, are the three Countries that produce the most Gold.

These are the several Mines of these two valuable Mettals, and where every Day they make new Discoveries, which inakes all the Nations of *Europe* so eager to Trade with the *Spaniards*; in reality this Commerce is the most profitable, the Returns being always in Gold and Silver.

Pearls, Emeralds, *Quinquina*, and *Laines de Vigogne* come with the Galleons.

For the most part they fish for Pearls, near the *Terra Firma*.

The Mines of Emeralds are near *Santa Fe de Bagota*, in *New Granada*.

*Laines de Vigogne*, come from *Potosi*.

*Quinquina*, from the Province of *Quillio*, which is likewise in *Peru*.

Cochineal, Indigo, Cocoa, Vanilles, and the Wood of *Campechy*, generally from *New Spain* or *Mexico*. The Province of *Guatimala* affords the best Cochineal, which they call there *Meteq*, and is the best and dearest of all. There is a prodigious Quantity consum'd all over *Europe*, in Dying Scarlet.

There is no less a Consumption of Indigo or Dying Blues; the best, if I mistake not, comes from *Guatimala*.

The Wood of *Campechy*, which is used in Dying Blacks, comes from *Jacatan*; Cocoa and Varnilles are two Fruits, with which they make Chocolate; the first comes generally from the Island *Curazao*, *Miracuebo*, and *Gay-aquil*, upon the Coasts of *Terra Firma*, and the other from *Ducapello* and *Mexico*, on the Coasts of the South-Sea.

The Tobacco we have from *Spain*, comes from *Vernia*, *Miracuebo*, the *Havana*, and *St. Domingo*; I think that which comes from the *Havana* is best to make Snuff of, the other to Smoak.

Their Leather comes generally from *Mexico*, the Islands of *St. Domingo*, the *Havana*, *Curazao*, and *Buenos Aires*, and is by much the best of any, and most valuable.

Tobacco and Leather make a great Article in the *Spanish* Trade, and the *Dutch* take off vast Quantities.



I take no Notice of Sarsaparilla, the Root Contrayerva, the Balsom of *Peru*, and other small Articles that come to us from the New World.

The principal Merchandise of their own Growth, that the *Spaniards* furnish these Countries with, are Wooll, Wines, Fruits, Oils, Soap, Salt, Soude or Kalt, Iron and Steel.

The *Spanish* Wooll was ever in high Esteem on Account of its Fineness and Excellency ; there is however, great Difference, the best coming from the Provinces of *Andalusia*, *Valentia*, *Castile*, *Arragon* and *Biscay*.

The *Dutch*, when they have a free Trade with *Spain*, take off vast Quantities, it being absolutely necessary in their Manufactures of Cloth. The *French*, *Italians*, and even the *English* themselves lay out considerable Sums in this Commodity ; so that it may truly be said, that the *Spanish* Wool is the greatest Article in their Trade on this side.

The Southern Parts of this Kingdom produce great Quantities of excellent Red and White Wines ; the chief Ports where these Wines are shipp'd off to Foreign Parts, are, *Alicant* and *Malaga*, in the Mediterranean : Much more Red than White comes from Port *St. Mary*, Port *Real*, *St. Lucar*, and *Rosa*, in the Bay of *Cadiz* ; but the greatest Part of the Wines that grow about that Bay, are White, and are commonly call'd *Xeres* Wines.

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The *Dutch* lay out large Sums in these Wines, as well as in Canary and Brandies, since they bought none of the *French*. The *Spaniards*, since this War, have sold much more Wine than before; for whereas during the Peace, in the Year 1691. the Duties run only for 3000 Buts, they have since risen to 16000.

The *Dutch* take off likewise abundance of Olives from the Island of *Majorca*, as well as from *Sevil* and *Malaga*, besides great Quantities of Figs, Raisins, Almonds, and other dried Fruits. I have been well informed, that there is scarce a Year, but they lade five or six Ships with these Goods, including Oranges, Limons and Capers.

The Soaps of *Alicant* and *Carthagena* are always esteem'd the best of any. Soude or Kalt, which is an Herb that turns to a kind of Stone, after being burnt, and which is used in making Soap and Grasse, grows in large Quantities on the Coasts of the Kingdoms of *Valencia* and *Murcia*, and Foreigners take off a great deal from both Places.

The *Dutch* were wont to lay out great Sums with the *Spaniards*, for Iron and *Spanish* Salt; there is a world of this Salt all round about the Bay of *Cadiz*, and the Island of *Iva*. Iron is the Product of *Biscay* and *Navarre*; and as there is no better in *Europe*, so for that very Reason there is every Year a great Consumption of this necessary Metal.

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The *Dutch* every Year employ in the *Cadiz* Trade about thirty Sail of Ships, besides those that unlade themselves at that Port, and continue their Course to the Streights.

They tell you, that at the times of the Departure and Arrival of the Galleons, the Number of the *Dutch* Vessels, that trade to *Cadiz*, commonly encreases to 15 or 20.

The Ships that Trade to *Cadiz* (except those laden with Corn) go always without Convoy, tho' their Artillery and Lading be very considerable, which makes other Nations often put their Goods aboard these Vessels, as well for Safety as Cheapness of Freight.

They pretend that the *Dutch* receive every Return of the Flotilla and Galleons about five Millions for Goods sent to the *Indies*, and near upon as much for those sold at *Cadiz*; add to this the indirect Trade to *America*, actually carried on by the Way of *Curazao*, an Article of no little Consequence.

I have only one Word more to say, and that is in relation to the Trade the *Dutch* carry on with the Northern Parts of *Spain*: They come into every Port; but the Traders of *Bilboa* and *St. Sebastian* are they that deal most with the *Dutch*; the Port of the former is the most considerable, being the Magazine of the Provinces of *Old Castille* and *Leon*; this Town by its Commerce furnishes these two Provinces with Woollen Stuffs, Silks,

Silks, Lace, Ribands, Hats, Paper, Small Wares and Iron Work, brought thither by the *Dutch*; who likewise bring all things necessary for Shipping, Salt and Corn, of which they consume great Quantities in those Places, as well as in other Provinces on the Sea Coast.

They bring much the same Goods to *St. Sebastian* as *Bilbao*, which are again sent into *Navarre*, the Country of *Guipuscoa*, the *Asturies*, &c.

From all this side of the Country the Commodities to be Exported are Wool from *Arragon*, *Navarre*, and *Old Castille*; excellent Iron from *Guipuscoa*, where the Iron Mines chiefly are; Nuts, Chestnuts, Limons, Oranges, Anchovies from *Calica*.

The Trade of the Southern Parts of *Spain*, which are wash'd by the Mediterranean Sea, is chiefly at *Malaga*, *Cartagena*, *Alicant*, *Valentia*, *Almarica* and *Majorca*, &c. which afford all the Commodities I spoke of above; to wit, Wines, Oils, Olives, Raisins, Figs, Almonds, Aniseeds, Salt, Soap, Soude or Kalt, and abundance of excellent Wool.

The Foreign Commodities which are most proper for this Country are *French* Linnens made in *Bittany*, good Quantities of Woollen and Silk Stuffs, Lace, Hats, Small Wares of every sort, and Jewellers Work, most of which are sent from *Cadiz*, the rest

the *Dutch* bring directly to the places they design them for.

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## CHAP. XI.

### *Of the Trade with Portugal.*

**B**EFORE *Portugal* and the Countries that Crown possessed in *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America* came to be reunited in the Year 1580, to the Crown of *Castille*, under the Reign of *Philip II.* the *Dutch* traded very much with *Portugal*, and with a great deal of ease, notwithstanding the Difference of Religion and the great Severity of the Inquisition; their greatest Trade was that of *Lisbon*, whence they Exported besides the Merchandize of the Country, that of the *East Indies*, *Africa* and *Brazil*, all which at that time went only thro' the Hands of the *Portuguese*.

But after that Union, the Trade that the *Dutch* drove in *Portugal*, underwent the same Fate as in the other Provinces of the *Spanish* Monarchy, that is, those Gentlemen were depriv'd of all manner of Commerce whatsoever.

The *Portuguese* having shook off the Government of the *Castilians* in the Year 1640, one of the first things they did was to stop the Conquests of the *Dutch*, which they were  
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continually making of the *Portugueze* Territories in the *East Indies*, *Africa* and *Brazil*, being Subject to the King of *Spain*. The new King sent forthwith an Ambassador to the *Hague*, to represent to the States General that the *Portugueze*, as such, never having any Difference with the *United Provinces*, he earnestly wish'd there might be establish'd a good Understanding between the two Nations, which would put them in a better Condition to resist the *Spaniard*, their common Enemy.

The States General finding their Account in the Offers of the *Portugueze*, a Truce for ten Years was signed between them in the Year 1641, and included all the Countries belonging to the two Nations, as well on this as the other Side of the Line: By this Truce it was agreed that there should be a free Navigation, and that each Party should be Master of those Places they were in Possession of at the time of publishing such Truce; which Truce was so ill observ'd by the *Dutch* in the *Indies*, that the *Portugueze* were in some Measure oblig'd to break it in the Year 1645, by an Insurrection they made in *Brazil* against the *Dutch*, whom they entirely drove out of that Country. This occasioned a new War in *Brazil* between the two Nations, but it did not break out in *Europe* till the Month of *October* 1646, when the States General declar'd War in all its Forms against the King of *Portugal*, because

he would not restore to their *West India* Company that which his Subjects had taken from them in 1647 ; but this Affair was endeavour'd to be accommodated by the Mediation of *France* and *Cromwel*.

The War between the Northern Crowns was the Cause that this Negotiation lingred out till the Restoration of the King of *England*, who resolving to marry the *Infanta* of *Portugal*, procur'd a Peace between the two Nations by his Mediation ; and a perpetual Peace was signed by them accordingly, the 16th of *August*, 1661.

The Privileges the *Portugueze* granted to the *Dutch* by this Treaty, in relation to their Commerce, gave them an Opportunity of Trading very considerably in *Portugal*, particularly after the *French* prohibited all Foreign Sugar and Tobacco, and the *Portugueze* on their side prohibited all *French* Manufactures : 'Twas with these two Articles chiefly that the *Portugueze* paid for all *French* Goods ; but after the *French* left off taking these from *Portugal*, the *Portugueze* would deal no more in *French* Merchandize ; this gave the *Dutch* an Opportunity to furnish them with theirs, taking in payment Sugar and Tobacco, which they knew very well how to dispose of.

The Trade of *Holland* is chiefly at *Lisbon* and *Oporto*, but the first is the most considerable :

able : As for *St. Ubes* where they go for Salt there is very little or no Consumption.

The Goods they Transport to *Portugal* consist chiefly in great Quantities of Manufactures of Silk, Wool and Linnen, Small Wares and Iron-work, Paper, Cards, Leather, Corn in time of scarcity (which is there very frequent.) Of all sorts of Merchandize except Corn, there is a vast Consumption in *Portugal* and its Colonies.

The Goods they bring from *Portugal* are those of the Country or its Colonies, the latter consist in Sugars, Tobacco, Wood of *Brazil* and *Fernambouc*, Ox Hides, Ginger, Pearls, Indigo, rough Diamonds, and Ambergrease, &c.

Tobacco and Sugar are the chief Commodities of *Portugal*, Sugar is one of their richest Returns from *Brazil*, where it wonderfully abounds : The Islands of *S. Thomas*, *Madeira*, *Capo Verde* ; and the *Terceras* also furnish considerable Quantities, but I am of the Opinion not near so good, unless it be that of *Madeira* ; they have also great Quantities of *Brazil* Wood, and other Woods for Dying, Ambergrease (which comes from *Melinda*) Pearls and Diamonds from the *East Indies* ; this Merchandize is one of the greatest Articles in the *Portugal* Trade.

The Merchadize of *Portugal* itself consists in Wines (amongst which I shall reckon those of *Madera*) Oils, Olives, Aniseeds, excellent Fruits, Rafins and Figs.

It is believ'd that the *Dutch* bring every Year from *Portugal* ten or twelve Ships laden with those Commodities, including Limons and Oranges, without reckoning their dry'd Sweet-meats made of several sorts of admirable Fruits in *Portugal* and *Brazil*.

It is said, that they send every Year directly into *Portugal* above twenty Sail of Ships, besides other Ships that Trade in the Mediterranean, and come thence to *S. Ubes* for their lading of Salt, of which they make a great Consumption in the North, where it has been very much in Use for a long time. The Commerce of *Holland* with *Portugal* is carried on by a Fleet of fifty Ships that are every Year constantly employ'd for that End, from fifteen to thirty Guns, with which they do good Service against the Corsairs and Pirates.

## C H A P. XII.

## Of the Mediterranean or Streights Trade.

THE Trade of the Mediterranean Sea was heretofore the most considerable in the World, when that of the *Indies* only past thro' *Alexandria*, and some other Ports of *Syria* : This Commerce was chiefly carry'd on by the *French*, *Italians* and *Catalans* ; but the *Venetians* were the most considerable of all.

The *Portugueze* making themselves Masters of the Trade of *Asia* turn'd the Current, and the *Italians* and the *French* enjoy'd only the Commerce with the Provinces and Countries on the Coast of the Mediterranean, which however was very considerable.

And this they kept to themselves till the *English* and *Dutch* began to Traffick with the Subjects of the Grand Signior ; the former in the Year 1599, and the latter in 1612. since that time, those two Nations have made themselves so much Masters of that Trade, that the *Italians* and *French* have very little to do.

The Trade of *Holland* to the Mediterranean, is one of the most considerable that Republick enjoys, as well on Account of the



great Quantities of Merchandize they carry thither, and vend at a high Price, as in respect of the vast Number and Quality of those Goods they have thence in return, and of which likewise they make a considerable Profit in the other Parts of *Europe*; for which Reason the States-General are very careful and jealous of a Commerce so advantageous to their Republick. They have establish'd a Chamber, which they call *the Chamber of Direction*, compos'd of six Deputies and a Register; all the substantial Merchants of *Amsterdam*, who have attain'd the Rank of Burgomasters, have a particular regard to, and are much interested in what concerns the Navigation and Trade of the Mediterranean.

This Chamber has Authority to see that all Orders from the States-General, touching this free Navigation, and the Trade thereon depending, be duly observed; and this Chamber takes Notice or Cognizance of all Differences that may arise at any time, in pursuance of such Commerce: It regulates in some Measure, the Convoys that are necessary for Merchants Ships, and nominates Consuls for the Sea-ports of the *Levant*, with consent of the States-General.

They send every Year about 10 Ships, that sail from *Holland* in three or four Squadrons, to trade in the Dominions of the Grand Seignior.

Their

Their Vessels of Freight cannot have less than 20 or 25 Pieces of Cannon, and 60 or 70 Men each ; and because these Voyages are very dangerous, by reason of the Corsairs of *Barbary* ; they allow them a Convoy of two Men of War of 50 or 60 Pieces of Cannon, and 160 or 170 Men.

These little Squadrons, both going and coming, touch generally at *Leghorn*, one of the best and most convenient Ports in *Italy* ; there they take in fresh Provisions and Pieces of Eight, things absolutely necessary for an advantageous Trading Voyage to the *Levant*. The *Gencese* who are always well provided with this sort of Money, are the People that furnish them, tho' they very often furnish themselves with it at *Cadiz*.

There are other *Dutch* Vessels that go to several Ports of *Italy*, *Spain*, and the Coasts of *Barbary*, with Merchandize which they dispose of there, and then take in other Commodities for the *Levant*, either on their own Account, or for the *Italians*, *French*, &c. and thence continue their Course to the *Levant*. The same Method they take in returning ; that is to say, they sell in those Ports the Commodities they bring from the *Levant*, and lade themselves again with such as they judge proper for *Holland*, either on their own or other People's Account.

Amongst

Amongst all the Ports the Grand Signior has in the *Archipelago*, *Candia*, *Cyprus*, *Rhodes*, *Greece*, *Asia* and *Egypt*, those of *Constantinople*, *Smyrna*, *Aleppo* and *Grand Cairo*, are Places of the greatest Commerce ; but *Smirna* exceeds them all, by reason of the Carravans of *Persia*, and the prodigious Number of Christian Vessels that resort thither.

This Town, is the very Centre of the *English* and *Dutch Levant* Trade, and the principal Mart of their Cloths, which are not only much admired and sought after in the Territories of the Grand Signior, but in *Persia* and the greatest Part of *Asia*.

The Trade of *Egypt* is by the way of *Grand Cairo* ; this renowned City is not only the general Magazine of all sorts of Merchandize, produced in that rich and vast Kingdom, but also of what comes thither from the Coasts of the *Red Sea*, the *East-Indies*, *Persia* and *Arabia Felix*, and some Provinces of *Africa* : However, notwithstanding all this, the Trade of *Grand Cairo* is now only a Shadow, in Comparison of what it was before the *Portuguese* discovered the *East-Indies*.

The Trade of this Place with *Europe* and *Asia*, is carried on by the *Nile* ; *Alexandria* and *Rhodes*, situated on the two Entrances of that famous River, are the two Ports where ordinarily resort the Christian Ships : *Damietta*, which lies in the South-Entrance of the  
same

same River, is frequented only by the Merchants of *Africa* and *Turkey*.

There is very little Consumption at the two former Places, which are to be consider'd as Places of Staple for those who trade to *Grand Cairo*, which City is about Fifty Leagues distant; and that is the Reason that the *Dutch Trade in Egypt* is very inconsiderable.

Besides, the Minister the *Dutch* always have at the Ottoman Port, whose principal Employment is to see the Articles of Agreement between the two Nations put in Execution, and secure and protect the Commerce of the Republick; they have their Consuls and their Vice-Consuls, in the chief Ports of the *Levant*, who do Justice to the *Dutch* Merchants that live there, without any Fee, Salary, or Perquisite.

The principal Merchandise that the *Dutch* carry to the *Levant*, are Cloths of all sorts, Spices, Cochineal, Indigo, Drugs, Woods fit for Dying, Tin, Lead, Iron, Steel, Cotton, *Russia-Leather*, and Money both Gold and Silver.

Their Clothes and other Woollen Stuffs have ever made the greatest Article of what the People of *Europe* are used to send into the *Levant*; the *Venetians* and *French* supply'd those Countries heretofore; but the *English* and *Dutch* have long since made themselves Masters of  
that

that considerable Trade ; and it is said, that those two Nations send thither every Year a prodigious Quantity of all sorts, Qualities and Colours, great part of which is presently taken off by the Caravans of *Persia* that come for that very Purpose to *Smyrna*, and thence carry them to sell in their own Country, and *Tartary*.

The great Fidelity and Exactness that the *English* and *Dutch* always keep in the Quality, Measure and Colour of their Cloths, added to their cheapness, have been the principal Reason that this Trade runs only thro' the hands of those two Nations.

The Spices the *Dutch* bring into the *Levant* are Cloves, Nutmegs, Cinnamon, Pepper ; to which I shall add Ginger and Sugar ; 'twas heretofore from the Ports of *Syria* they had all their Spices, but now by a very surprising Revolution of Commerce, the *Dutch*, a People of the *North*, after a Navigation of many thousand Leagues, which they constantly make to acquire this rich Merchandize, supply those very Ports with Spices which heretofore used to furnish all *Europe*.

The *Dutch* bring likewise into the *Levant* the finest Woods and Drugs for Dying, as *Cochineel*, *Indigo*, *Gumlac*, Woods of *Brazil*, *Fernambouc*, *Siampan*, *Brazillet*, and *Campéchy*.



All these Commodities, and many others come from *Africa*, except Gumlac and Siampon, which are the Product of the *Indies*.

They bring likewise thither a great deal of Steel, Iron, tin'd Iron, Iron Wire, Brass Plates, *Russia* Leather, Lead and Tin : But the *English*, whose Country produces these two last in greatest abundance, bring into the *Levant* much greater Quantities, and the vast Consumption that there is made, is none of the least Articles of the *English* Trade : The Tin Men over all the East use a great deal of it in Kitchen Furniture, which for the most part is made of no other Mettal but Copper.

Tho' the Money the *Dutch* make in *Holland* be nothing near of so good Alloy as the *Spanish* Pieces of Eight, they go nevertheless in the *Levant* as well as the other : I omit here some Commodities of lesser Consequence which the *Dutch* are likewise used to bring into these Parts ; all sorts of Goods are well enough received at *Grand Caico*, except fine Linnen and Spices.

The greatest part of the Commodities that the *Dutch* bring from the Ports of the *Levant*, come from the Grand Signiors Dominions, the rest from those Ports where arrive the Caravans of *Persia* and *Armenia*, the chief of which Commodities are raw and spun Silks, twisted Goats and Camels Hair, Cotton, Callicoets, *Cordovan* and other Leather, colour'd Camblets,  
Wax,

Wax, Allom, Galls, Wool, Boxwood, Tea, Coffee, Currants, Ultramarine, and all sorts of Drugs for the Apothecaries Use.

The Silks that come from the *Levant* are for the most part the Product of *Persia*, *Syria*, *Egypt*, the Islands of the *Archipelago*, and the *Morea*. But what the Caravans bring every Year to *Smyrna*, far exceeds in Quantity that which comes from the other Countries of the *Levant*.

These Caravans bring likewise a great deal of Goats Hair spun at *Angora* and *Debazar* in *Persia*, of which they make the finest Camlets in *England* and *Holland*.

It is said that the *Dutch* every Year bring from the *Levant* about 2000 Bales of Silk, and the like Quantity of spun Goats Hair, and the *English* take off almost as much.

The Cotton that comes from the *Levant* grows chiefly in the Grand Signior's Dominions in the Country about *Smyrna*, and in the Isle of *Cyprus*.

There are not such Quantities in *Persia*, but the Caravans bring to *Smyrna* Indian Callicoes, and other Stuffs made of Cotton, as Mullins, and that which the *French* call *Cambresines*, which are very fine, and bear a good Price.

They make in the Grand Signiors Dominions a vast Quantity of Cotton Stuffs, both blue and white, which are very excellent, and sell  
well,

well, especially the blue, which are Dyed to that Perfection, that the Colour never stirs.

The Article of *Cordovan, Turkey Leather* and common Leather is also very considerable ; there is a vast Consumption in *Italy, France* and *Spain*, and even in the North itself ; these *Turkey Leathers* are of several Colours, but most commonly white, red, and yellow ; this Commodity alone, is one of the greatest Articles of the *Dutch Trade* in the *Levant*.

The Trade for Drugs is no less, considering the great Consumption made in all Parts of *Europe* : *Rhubarb* and *Scammony* come from *Tartary*, and are brought by the Caravans of *Persia* to *Smyrna* and *Aleppo*, together with *Galbanum, Yppomenes, Aromatick Gums, Tutia*, and other Drugs.

Grand *Cairo* likewise furnishes several sorts of Gums and Drugs, *viz.* *Frankincense, Sena, Cassia, Aloes, Sal Armoniac, and Tamarinds, Coffee, Pine Kernels, Ostridge Feathers*, and some other Commodities of *Egypt* ; I must not omit *Mastick*, which comes only from the Isle of *Chio*, nor *Currants*, of which the *English* make a great Consumption, and are the Product of the Isles of *Zante* and *Cephalonia*.

Tho' the *Dutch* were the last that came to trade in the Grand Signior's Countries, yet have they been treated no less favourably than other Nations ; on the contrary, they and the *English*, who for a long while since have almost

most shared all that Trade of those Parts, are the most esteemed and best treated, having paid for many Years only 3 *per Cent.* while other Nations pay five. This, together with the good Order and prudent Conduct of the *English* and *Dutch* in that Successful Trade, has made them Masters of it, while the *French* carried themselves after a different Manner.

Besides, this Trade is manag'd all over the Grand Signior's Dominions, with the greatest Ease and Profit; for the Goods that are Exported, pay no more than three *per Cent.* and those that are Imported five *per Cent.* once for all; after that you may transport them to any Province you please, subject to that Empire, without being obliged to pay new Duties: For Example, a Bale of Cloth that has paid the Custom of Entry at the Port of *Smyrna*, may go out for *Constantinople* Custom-free; and the Officers (whatever is said of the *Turkish* Extortion) are not over severe, for if any one should give it in that, a less Quantity of Goods entered the Port than really did, and the Fraud should be discovered, yet he would be acquitted on paying the Overplus for what he had so concealed. By this it appears, that the *Turks* understand better the Maxims necessary for the flourishing of Trade, than other Nations who look upon them as a barbarous People, that inflame and carry Matters with a high hand in relation to Delinquents in this  
Kind

Kind by Confiscations, Forfeitures, and Penalties, odious to the People, and no ways advantageous to the Prince.

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## SECTION II.

### *Of the Trade of Italy.*

THE Trade the *Dutch* have with *Italy* is considerably great; they carry thither great Quantities of *Indian* Goods, and their own Manufactures, and bring thence a great deal of woven and raw Silks, and other Products of that Country; they trade chiefly to the Ports of *Genoa*, *Leghorn*, *Venice*, *Naples*, and *Messina*: These five Places, if I may use the Expression, are the Staple Märts for all Commodities that the other Ports of *Italy* furnish Strangers with, who on the other hand bring thither theirs, which are afterwards dispersed all over *Italy*.

*Genoa* without Contradiction, is a Place of the greatest Trade, *not only* because several Manufacturies flourish there, and the Merchants of that City trade much themselves with their own Vessels to other Countries, and especially *Spain*; but also on Account of the Trade



Trade of all *Lombardy* with Strangers, which must pass thro' the Hands of the *Genoese*.

Here follows an Account of the principal Goods the *Dutch* carry into *Italy*.

Pepper, Cloves, Nutmegs, Cinnamon, *Russia* Leather, *China* Ware, Iron, *Swedish* Copper, *English* Tin and Lead, Whalebone, Pitch and Tar, Masts, Planks, and other things necessary for Navigation; Cloths, Serges, Camlets, *Flanders* Thread, Stockfish, Pickled Salmon, Caviard, Musk and Civet, Wheat and other Grain (when there is a scarce Season in *Italy*): All these Goods are brought into the five Ports I just now mention'd, except Iron and Copper, which must never come to *Venice*, no more than Cloths, which are there Prohibited and Counterband, because the Natives make great Quantities themselves, and very good.

The Commodities the *Dutch* carry out of *Italy* are several sorts of Silks, raw and twist-ed, Woven Silks of all Kinds, as plain and wrought Velvets, Tabbies, Sattins, Damasks, &c. Gold and Silver Brocades, Gold Thread, drawn and twisted at *Milan*, Oil of Olives, Parmesan Cheese, Anchovies, Sausages, dry'd Fruits, (as Raisins, Figs, and Almonds,) Lemons, and Citrons; Pastes and Confections of all sorts, Rice, Anniseeds, Allum and Sulphur, *Veretian* Steel, Manna, Amber, Turpentine, Creme Tartar, fine Lacca, Glass of all sorts, white  
Marble

Marble in Squares and Tables, Paper, Soap, Essences, perfumed Gloves, Snuff, &c.

One may likewise be furnish'd at *Leghorn*, *Genoa*, and *Venice*, with all sorts of Goods from the *Levant*.

Woven and Raw Silks are certainly the most considerable and important Merchandize Strangers export out of *Italy*, and are really the Basis and Foundation of the *Italian Trade*: These Silks which are of several sorts, come from *Lombardy*, and *Sicily*, and are chiefly made in *Florence* and *Naples*; the plain Velvets are made at *Genoa* and *Rheggio*, the wrought ones which have Sattin Grounds and Silk Flowers, as well as those that have Gold and Silver Grounds are made at *Milan*, *Genoa*, *Venice*, &c. Sattins and Damasks at *Genoa*, *Bologna*, and *Lucca*; (the white Sattins made at *Florence* are inimitable,) Gold and Silver Brocades at *Venice* and *Florence*: I pass by a great many other *Italian Manufactures* of Silk, very profitable, which the Brevity of this Treatise will not admit of.

It must be observ'd in general, that these Manufactures of *Italy* are the best in *Europe*, which proceeds from the Beauty and Goodness of their Silk.

## CHAP. XIII.

*Of the East India Trade.*

THE *India* Trade is of very great Importance to the *Dutch*, not only on Account of the Spices they are Masters of, (which rich Productions are equally esteem'd and sought after by the Inhabitants of the old and new World;) but also because this Trade has given them Opportunities of conquering a vast Country of prodigious Extent, and maintaining a strong Force at Sea, which in some Measure makes them sole Arbiters of the Commerce and Trade of those vast Regions.

It is now above 2000 Years ago, that the *East Indies* and *Europe* traded with each other; *Ptolemy II.* King of *Egypt*, contributed most to cultivate this Commerce, by means of a new Road he caused to be made in his own Dominions from *Copta*, a Town bordering on the *Nile*, to *Muris*, a Port on the *Red Sea*; by Means of this Passage, the Carriage of all Commodities, as well those of *India* as *Europe*, was manag'd with much Ease and Conveniency by the mutual Assistance of the Merchants of *Egypt* and *Grand Cairo*.

*Augustus* having made himself Master of *Egypt*, the *Romans* omitted nothing that might serve

serve to favour and increase the *Indian Trade* in *Egypt*; and whereas before the *Egyptians* used only to employ in that Affair twenty Ships in the Time of *Augustus*, they employ'd then a hundred and twenty; and this Commerce was so very advantageous to the *Egyptians*, that by the Merchandize they brought from the *Indies*, they got a hundred for one, or ten Thousand *per Cent*.

The *Romans* were Masters of this Trade till the Reign of the Emperor *Heraclius*; afterwards the *Arabians* engross'd it all, and they found it so Profitable and Advantageous, that they settled themselves in the *Indies*, and propagated there the *Mahometan Religion*, which they professed; the *Indians* in most places readily embraced it, as suiting their Humour and Inclination.

All the Merchandize of *Asia* continued its old Course, and came into *Europe* by the *Red Sea* and *Alexandria*; as also by the *Persian Gulf*, and then was carried in the Caravans belonging to the *Persian Merchants*, to the Ports of *Syria*, which likewise were in subjection to the Souldan of *Egypt*.

'Twas to these several Ports the *French*, *Italians*, *Catalans*, and other Traders of *Europe* used to resort, to buy the *East India* Spices and other Commodities brought thither by the *Arabians*; which they again dispersed all over *Europe* with prodigious Profit; but

the *Italians* being the nearest, were those that got the most riches, by this profitable Commerce.

The Eastern Trade continued to be carried on with *Europe*, by the Ports of the Mediterranean, till about the Year 1498, when the *Portugueze* having sailed round *Africa*, (a Thing before that time never performed by Man) came to *Calicut* a Town in the *Indies*, towards the end of the Month of *May* 1498, after having spent 88 Years time in discovering that Passage; this Action gained them greater Honour and Reputation than the *Phenicians*, *Carthaginians*, and *Greeks* ever had; who never attempted so bold a Voyage, tho' they were the first Inventors of Navigation.

The *Portugueze*, when they arrived in the *Indies*, found the *Arabians* very powerfully establish'd in most Parts of that Country, and Masters of all the Trade, and who omitted nothing to hinder these new Comers from settling there. They not only stirred up the greatest and most powerful Kings of *India* against them, but even the Souldans of *Egypt*, with whom, for a long time, they had very sharp and cruel Wars; but all the Power that these confederated Princes could make against the *Portugueze*, did not hinder them from accomplishing their Designs; by their Valour and good Conduct, they made themselves  
Masters



Masters of the Trade of those vast Regions of the East, by conquering an incredible Number of the most important Places, and thoroughly fortifying those Conquests from *Cape Couran*, on the Eastern Coasts of *Africa* to *China*, and by their Men of War which were continually cruising on those vast Seas; particularly on the Coasts of *Arabia*, to hinder Commerce for the future being carried on at *Grand Cairo* and *Alexandria*, and fixing it entirely at *Lisbon*.

I have here inserted the Names of the principal Places that the *Portuguese* possess'd on the Coasts of *Asia* and *Africa*.

The Castle *de las Minas* in *Guinea*; the Towns of *St. Salvador* on the Coasts of the Kingdom of *Congo*, and of *St. Paul de Loandes* in the Kingdom of *Angola*, made them Masters of all the Commerce on the Western Coasts of *Africa*; and the Fortresses of *Sofales*, and *Mozambique* and *Quitou* of the Commerce of the Eastern Coasts. Besides these, they had the important Places of *Moscats* and *Ormuts* on the Coasts of *Arabia* and *Persia*; on the Coasts of *Cambay* and *Malabar* besides *Goa*, (the Capital of all their Territories in the East) they had Possession of *Diu*, *Cochin*, *Canar*, *Oranganar*, and *Coular*. They were Masters of four good Fortresses in the Isle of *Ceylan*, which secured to them the Cinnamon Trade. On the Coast

of *Coromandel*, *St. Thomas*, *Nagapatan* and *Infanopatan*, *Golit* in *Bengall*, and *Sirem* in *Pegu*. The important Haven of *Malaca* on the Streights of the same Name, and *Piacem* in the Isle of *Sumatra*.

The Fortresses they had in the Isles of *Ti-ron*, *Amboina*, *Ternate* and *Benda*, made them likewise Masters of the Clove and Nutmeg Trade.

In short, they possessed on the Coasts of *China* the celebrated and important Town of *Macar*, and though they had no footing in *Japan*, of which they were the first Discoverers; yet they carried on a very considerable and rich Trade with the *Japonefe*, a thing, at that time and since, unknown in the old World.

Their Shipping, which are continually going to, and coming from *Japan*, bring thence a great deal of Silver and fine Copper; as also Gold, Silk woven and raw, Porcelain, *China* Ware, Tin and Lead, from the Kingdom of *Siam*; Rubies and Sapphires, from *Pegu*; Pearls from the Isle of *Manar*, and from *Berberem* Sugar, Salt-Petre, and rich Silks; Cotton from the Kingdom of *Bengale*, and the finest painted Callicoes; Diamonds from the Coast of *Coromandel*; Pepper from the Kingdom of *Golconda*; Cinamon from the Coast of *Malabar*, and the Islands of *Sumatra* and *Java*; Cloves and Nutmegs, from the Isle of *Ceylon*; from the *Molucca* Islands, Indigo; from

from *Amphion*, Cotton, Silks, Lacca and Agates; from the Great Mogul's Country, Silk woven and raw, Gold Stuffs and Carpets, Rhubarb, Sena, and other Drugs; from *Persia*, Myrrh, Frankincense, Manna, Balsam of *Arabia*, Gold, Ivory, Tygers Skins, Bezoar, and *African* Lyons Skins.

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### SECTION III.

*Of the Means the Dutch took to establish themselves in the Indies.*

THE *Dutch* for many Years furnish'd themselves with all these rich Commodities I mention'd in the last Chapter at *Lisbon*, where they sufficiently abounded; but the Crown of *Portugal* in the Year 1580, being united to that of *Castille*; the Severities they some time after suffered in the *Spanish* Dominions under *Philip II.* oblig'd them to abandon that Trade, and was the real Cause of putting them on that great Undertaking of going themselves to the *Indies*, and there to furnish themselves directly with those very Commodities they used before to have from *Portugal*. The insuperable Difficulties of this great Enterprize, deterr'd them a long while, and they knew not in the least the

the Navigation of those vast Seas they were to sail over, and were as much Strangers to the Language, Genius, and Commerce of the *Indians*: The *Portugueze* always keeping these things very close and private from the rest of *Europe*. But nothing troubled them so much as the *Portugueze* Men of War, and other Shipping that were continually sailing every where on those Seas, and which they believ'd they could not possibly avoid.

To surmount this Difficulty, they endeavour'd to open a Passage into *China* and the *Indies* thro' the North, but the insuperable Obstacles they met with, by reason of those prodigious Rocks of Ice in the *White* or *Frozen Sea*, made them abandon that Project as too dangerous. In short, they took up a Resolution to take the same Route as the *Portugueze*; and accordingly some of the most resolute Merchants of *Amsterdam* and *Zealand*, fitted out from the *Texel* in the beginning of the Month of *April* in the Year 1559, four Vessels laden with Goods for the *East Indies*.

Notwithstanding all the Precautions, they took in this Voyage, they found many rubs laid in their Way, especially by the *Portugueze*, who did all they could to starve them; but for all that, three of these Ships, (one of which, by the Sailor's Negligence, they were forced to abandon) arrived in *Holland* in the Month of *August* 1561.

This

This proving at least a saving Voyage for those that were concerned in it, made them hope for better Success for the future ; and upon this Foundation they began to form several Companies in *Holland*, to carry on the *Indian* Commerce.

Nothing contributed so much to their happy Success in the beginning of this Trade, as the favourable reception they met with from several *Indian* Princes, secret Enemies to the *Portuguese* on Account of their Pride, Tyranny, and indiscreet Zeal of their Missionaries, which raised them a great Number of Enemies, who for a long time only waited for an Opportunity to declare themselves against them.

An *English* Gentleman (whose Integrity cannot be question'd) says, that the *Dutch* Conduct was very prudent, never undertaking any thing against the *Indians* ; from whom they never exacted any Contributions as the *Portuguese* did, but only contented themselves with establishing their own Commerce, and ruining that of the *Portuguese*.

These several *Dutch* Companies traded separately to the *Indies* till the Year 1602, when the States General judged it proper to unite them, that they might be in a better Condition to defend themselves against the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese*, and to attack them if Occasion so required : Out of these several Companies was formed that general *East India* Company, which



which alone for twenty Years together, could carry on the Navigation beyond the *Cape of Good Hope* and the *Streights of Magellan*; their Stock which was no more than about 6500000 Florins or Guilders, was so well managed by these able Merchants, that they have entirely destroy'd the great Empire and Commerce of the *Portugueze* in the *Indies*, having possessed themselves of both, and founded on their ruine, a State whose Power may vie with that of their Republick in *Europe*.

The *Dutch* who settled first in the *Indies*, contented themselves to stand on the Defensive against the *Portugueze*, whenever they attack'd them, but seeing with all their Policy and Address, they could never obtain of them Permission to trade quietly to the *Indies*, the General Company resolved to attack them as briskly in their Turn, and put themselves in a Condition to repel Force by Force.

In the beginning of the Year 1605, they seized upon the Fortrefs the *Portugueze* had in the Island of *Amboina*; this was the first solid footing the Company got in the *Indies* and that Island to this very Day, is one of the chief Governments the Company has in those Parts.

This first Conquest was follow'd by that of the other *Molucca* Islands, and consequently, made them Masters of the Spices, the richest and most important Commerce of any in the World. They had an Intention in the Year 1606, to possess

possess themselves of the important Place of *Malacca*, but the obstinate Resistance they found there, made them lay aside the Execution of that Enterprize till another Opportunity.

The *Spaniards* finding by Experience, that it was impossible to drive the *Dutch* out of the *Indies* by Force, offer'd to make Peace with them, and acknowledge them a free People if they would abandon the *India* Trade. How great soever these Offers were, they made no manner of Impression on the *Dutch*, who peremptorily refus'd them, and rather chose to continue a long War (as it proved to be) and which they entred into only to obtain their Liberty (which was then offer'd to them on such hard Conditions,) than to abandon the *East India* Trade, and they did not sign the Truce in the Year 1609, but on Condition they should trade freely to the *East Indies* in all the Places they used to do during the War.

Tho' the Company was oblig'd to continue the War in the *Indies*, the *Spaniards* so ill observing the Truce, yet that did no ways hinder them from strenuously carrying on their Trade even to the principal Places of the East, where before it was unknown and unheard of; the Trade of *Japan*, which they settled in the Year 1611, was of the greatest Consequence, and they knew so well afterwards how to improve it, that since the Year 1616, they are  
the

the only People in *Europe* that have any thing to do in those Parts.

The Fort which King *Isnagar* gave them leave to build on the Coast of *Coromandel*, having skreen'd them from the Resentment and Insults of the *Portugueze* of *St. Thomas*, established firmly their Commerce there, and which is one of the most considerable in the *Indies*.

In 1609, they began to build their City of *Batavia* on the Ruines of the small Town of *Iventra* in the Isle of *Java*; it was fortify'd by a Citadel, compass'd with a Wall and eighteen Bastions, which were so strongly built that this Town afterwards held out three, Sieges against the Kings of the Isle of *Java*. As soon as *Batavia* was finish'd, the General Company made it the Capital of all their Territories in *Asia*, and the Centre of all Commerce in those Parts; the *Dutch* General makes it the Place of his Residence, living in the Citadel with his Court and Council.

Since the Companies Trade so wonderfully encreas'd, and in a short time became the most considerable of all *Asia*, the *Dutch* made new Conquests; and the Kings of the Islands, and the Coasts of *Asia*, struck with the Success and Grandeur of the Company, soon came and coveted their Alliance. In Process of Time, they erected several publick and private Buildings at *Batavia*, of extraordinary Beauty and Magnificence, insomuch that it is now, and has

a long time since been, the Wonder of *Asia*, both for its Beauty and Commerce; for there is never a Day, but you may see Vessels entering the Ports from *Bengal*, *Siam*, *Malacca*, the *Molucca* and *Philipine* Islands, *China*, and all other Parts of the *Indies*, not including those that come from *Europe*.

The Truce ending in 1621, the two Parties, viz. the *Portugueze* and *Dutch* prepar'd themselves for War, both in the old and new World. Of all the Advantages the *Dutch* got in the *Indies* over the *Portugueze*, That in the Year 1640 was the greatest, for in that very Year the Company, in short, made themselves Masters of the Town of *Malacca*, and by that Conquest became Masters of the most considerable *Streight* in all *Asia*. In effect, it was one of the most important Places the *Portugueze* had in the *Indies*; its Situation was wonderful for the Trade of *China* and the *Molucca* Islands, and they always kept there a strong Garrison, and a good Fleet, which struck a Terror into all the Neighbouring Islands.

On the 1st of *December*, in the same Year 1640, the *Portugueze* shook off the *Castillian* Yoke, and made the Duke of *Braganza* their King, who was acknowledg'd as such not only by all *Portugal*, but by all the States that Crown possess'd in *Asia*, *Africa* and *America*.

As the *Portugueze* were not at War with the *Dutch*, but as Subjects to the King of *Spain*,

*Spain*, as soon as they ceased to be so, they desired an Alliance with the *Dutch*, with whom; in the Year 1641. they concluded a Truce for ten Years, for all Places belonging to each Nation; both on this and the other side the Line; There was to be a free Navigation for both Parties every where; and each was to remain in Possession of those Places they held in the *East* and *West-Indies*, at the time of publishing the Truce.

This Treaty was not capable to put a Stop to the *Dutch* Conquests; for notwithstanding the Truce they had sign'd, they made themselves Masters of the Towns of *Gallo* and *Columbo*, two of the principal Places the *Dutch*, or rather the *Portuguese* had in the Isle of *Ceylan*; and this put into their Hands the whole Cinnamon Trade, and in some sort made themselves Masters of the Streights between the Isle of *Ceylan* and Cape *Comorin*; so that by these Means they govern the two most powerful Passages of *Asia*.

The *Portuguese* being not able to have any Justice done them, for the Infractions of the Truce thus made by the *Dutch*, resolv'd to do themselves Justice, and accordingly made an Insurrection and general Revolt in *Brazil*, which cost the *Dutch* the Loss of all they possess'd in that Place, and almost ruined their *West-India* Company.

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The War also broke out in good earnest between the two Nations in the *East*, and lasted 16 Years; in which time the *Dutch* took from the *Portuguese* almost all the Trade they had left in the *East-Indies*.

The taking of several Castles and strong Places by the *Dutch* in 1661. belonging to the *Portuguese*, from the Entrance of the *Indian* Seas as far as *Suratte*, struck such a Terror into that vast Country, that the City of *Goe* was afraid they must have fallen under the Government of the *Dutch* Company.

They got besides, a Battle near *Dabuls*, the Consequences of which were very fatal to the *Portuguese*, for several little Kings on this side the *Ganges*, following always the strongest side, left the *Portuguese* to put themselves under the Protection of the *Dutch*, who by reducing the Town and Island of *Medaa* (which was oblig'd to be abandon'd to them) saw themselves Masters of the Streights of *Chilas*.

The Expence and Trouble the Company were at during this War, did not hinder them from taking all Methods to advance their Commerce. In the Year 1653, they made a new Establishment at the *Cape of Good Hope*, for the Conveniency of their Shipping that should make the Voyages of *India*. There is at present a great Town, and a Fort with 6 Bastions, that commands all the Road. The Air is very

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good,

good, plenty of all sorts of Game, and the Soil produces good Corn and Wine; so that that this Port is of the greatest Benefit and Advantage to their Fleets which here take in fresh Provisions.

Notwithstanding the ill Success that the *Dutch* Company met with in the several Attempts they made to settle their Commerce with *China*, they was resolv'd in the Year 1655, to make a greater than ever, by sending thither a splendid Embassy with rich Presents for the Emperor of *Tartary*, who was then Master of the Empire of *China*. It was believ'd they would have carried their Point, notwithstanding the Stratagems of the *Jesuits* and *Portugueze*, who both paid dear enough afterwards for the ill Services they did the *Dutch* on that Occasion.

This same Company suffer'd yet a more troublesome Mortification in the Year 1661, where they were driven by Force out of the Island of *Formosa*, which lies between *China* and *Japan*. This Loss was very considerable, in relation to the great Trade they drove with both these Empires.

In the same Year 1661, the *Portugueze* and *Dutch* being both wearied by a War so pernicious to them both, signed a Peace at the *Hague* by the Mediation of the Kings of *England*.

By this Treaty, the *Dutch* quitted *Brazil* entirely to the *Portuguese* for a good Sum of Money, and some Advantages in respect of Trade. The Jealousy afterwards between the Viceroy of *Goa*, and the General of *Batavia* grew so great, that this Peace was not at all observ'd in the *East Indies*.

In the Year 1663, the *Dutch* took from them the best Places they had on the Coasts of *Malabar*, viz. *Coulam*, *Cananor*, *Cochin* and *Grandanor*. Thus in less than the space of one Year, almost 150 Leagues of the Country on the Coast of *Malabar* exchange'd their Governors, and from the *Portuguese* came under the Dominion of the Company, which much augmented their Commerce in the Provinces of *Guzaratte*, *Indoston* and *Bengal*.

The *Portuguese* were not the only People the Company fell out with, they had several Wars with the *Indian* Kings, but that against the King of *Macassar* was one of the longest and most difficult they ever knew in that Country; the Subjects of that Prince, a hardy and warlike People, rob'd and murder'd not only the Servants and Friends of the Company, but embarrass'd much their Spice Trade; and there was good reason to believe the King himself shar'd part of the Spoil: But at last the Company attack'd him with so much Vigour, and such considerable Force, that they oblig'd

him to beg Peace on such Conditions as the Council of *Batavia* thought fit to impose on him by the Treaty of 1669, by which that King was oblig'd to give up, amongst other Fortresses, that of *Macassar*; and thus that Powerful Nation was entirely subdued, and the Company by that means freed from the most dangerous Enemies they ever had in the *Indies*, and became absolute Masters of the Trade of the *Molucca* Islands, which had been very much troubled and interrupted several Years by the Incursions and Intelligence of the *Macassarians*.

After a long Series of Prosperity and Success, they sent their Troops in the Year 1675, into the Town of *St. Thomas* on the Coast of *Coromandel*, having assisted the King of *Golconda* to retake his Country from the *French*, who had some Years before possess'd themselves of it.

About the Year 1680, the Emperor *Matarem* in the Isle of *Java*, deliver'd up to the Company the Towns of *Tapara* and *Cheriban*, both (if I mistake not) lying on the same Coast as *Batavia*, for the Assistance they lent him against his two Brothers that had rebell'd against him, by which that Prince grew very powerful in their Dependencies. In the Year 1682, we heard in *Europe* that they had likewise made themselves Masters of the Town of *Bantam*, which submitted themselves in the  
same

same manner as the Isle of *Java*. This Town is situated in the middle of a Bay, which has a Road, one of the finest, safest and most convenient of any in the *Indies*, both for coming in and going out.

*Bantam* was a Town of Trade, especially for Pepper, and all the Merchants of *Europe* used to trade thither; but since it has fallen into the *Dutch* hands, no body has Liberty to come into that Port, all the Trade being transferr'd to *Batavia*. This Affair occasion'd great Heats in *Europe* between the *English* and *Dutch*; the former, not bearing to see themselves excluded one of the chiefest Places where they had so many Years establish'd their *Indian* Trade, accus'd the *Dutch* of having by their Artifices occasioned the *Bantam* War, to make themselves Masters of the Isle of *Java*, and thereby to engross to themselves all the Trade of the *Indies*, exclusive of all the other Nations of *Europe*: This Quarrel after some Years, was at last put an end to by the Treaty of ....

By these Ways the *Dutch* have establish'd themselves in the *Indies*, but chiefly by taking away from the *Portuguese* almost all their Commerce, and their best Places in that Country: They have often attempted to surprize *Goa* and *Diu*, which are all they have now left them of any Importance, and which



sooner or later 'tis thought, the *Dutch* will accomplish.

I shall now discourse of the Way and Manner how they manage their Trade with the *Indies*, but first it will not be unuseful to give an Account of the Number of the Places, and of their chief Trade and Exchange which is chiefly manag'd in these happy Climates.

#### SECTION IV.

*Of the Dutch Trade in several Countries in Asia.*

THE *Dutch* Trade to the *Indies* does not barely consist in bringing Goods into *Asia* from *Europe*, and transporting thence others in Exchange, but often in carrying the very Commodities of *Asia* to be sold in other Parts of *Asia* itself; that is, for Example, to carry the Commodities of the Kingdom of *Siam* and *China* into *Japan*, and those of *Japan* into those Parts of *Asia* where they are most necessary. 'Tis by this Circulation which they make all over the East, as well in relation to the Commodities of *Europe* as *Asia*, that they sufficiently provide themselves with those they send into *Holland*.

Here

Here follows an Account of what this Company transports into *Europe* from the *Indies*.

*Mocca* on the *Red Sea*, two Leagues distant from the *Streights* of *Babelmandel*, is where the *Dutch* have chiefly their free *Arabian* Trade, which is very profitable to them, by reason of the Spices the *Arabians* take from them in vast Quantities, and have in return amongst other things, Frankincense, Myrrh, and many other Gums, Manna, Balsam, or Balm, Aloes, Dragons Blood, (which last is the Product of the Isle of *Jocretara*, not far from *Arabia*) Coffee, &c. They likewise frequent the other Ports of *Arabia*, as *Adem*, *Zebit*, *Mascalle* and *Balzora*, where they drive some small Trade, either on their own Account or the *Indians*, who send a considerable Quantity of their Commodities to *Arabia*.

The *Persian* Trade with Foreigners is carried on by the Port of *Gameron* or *Bandarabassi*, which is the only considerable Port of that Empire on the *Indian* Sea, being situated at the Entrance of the *Persian* Gulf, opposite to the Isle of *Ormutz*, so famous for its Trade when subject to the *Portuguese*. The principal Trade of the *Dutch* is in the said Town of *Gameron*, upon which depends that of *Isfahan*, where they pay no Custom for Entry or going out in *Persia*, taking every Year 6000 Bales of Silk at a certain Price. But as that Commodity is not very gainful in *Europe*, they

have lessened that Quantity as much as possible; insomuch that in the Year 1664, they only took half what they used to do.

Silk is the most considerable and plentiful Commodity that comes from *Persia*, and this they work up all manner of ways, wrought and plain, in Gold and Silver Brocades, Carpets and Hangings incomparably rich, and extreamly beautiful.

They bring likewise from *Persia*, Cinnamon, Wool (which is wonderful fine) Pearls and Turquoise Stones, &c.

The Commodities the Company sends thither, and which they own they gain most by, (that which they bring thence being not very profitable) are Spices, Sugar, Aniseeds, Ginger, Indigo, Siampan Wood, Vermillion, Frankincense, Benzoin, Quicksilver, Lead, Tin, Copper, colour'd Cloths, Linnen from *Suratte* and *Coromandel*, and Piasters or Pieces of Eight.

The *Dutch Trade* in the Great *Mogul's* Country, is one of the richest they have in *Persia*; they bring thence great Quantities of all sorts of Silks, Indigo, Salt-peter, Lacca, Agates, and Ginger.

All these Commodities do not only sell well in *Europe*, but are much esteem'd and sought for in *Asia* and *Africa* itself.

Suratte

*Suratte*, the only Sea-Port in these Countries, is their Place of greatest Trade: In this Place one may find all sorts of Commodities produced in the Great *Mogul's* Dominions, sufficient to supply the other Parts of *Asia*, and *Africa*, and even *Europe* itself, and which are transported thither by the *English*, *Dutch*, *Persians*, *Portugueze*, *Moors* and *Indians*.

The *Dutch* Company send chiefly thither, Spices, Pepper, Copper, Tortoise-shell, Camphire, Vermillion, Orchalmy, Tin, Benzoin, and several sorts of coloured Cloths, &c.

The Coast from *Suratte* to *Cape Comorin*, and which comprehends that of *Malabar*, furnishes them chiefly with Pepper; the Company who possess'd there a great many considerable Places in the Year 1664 entered into several Treaties with the Kings of those Cantons, whereby they engaged to sell them all their Pepper.

They bring from the Coast of *Coromandel*, (in which I include the Kingdom of *Golconda*,) great Quantities of Cotton and Callicoe of all sorts; that which they call Chints, (which is painted with several Colours,) is most valuable of any that is made in the *Indies*, for the Colours never wear out, but last as long as the Cloth it self.

The Kingdom of *Golconda* also yields Indigo, Bezoar Stones and yellow Diamonds.

The Coast of *Coromandel* is the most important to the Company ; in the Year 1663 they brought thence as many Goods as cost two Millions and four hundred Thousand Florins or Guiders, and which consisted chiefly in Callicoes, part of which was sent to *Holland*, and the rest to *Persia* and *Turkey*. ♥

The *Dutch*, to secure themselves the Commodities of the Coast of *Coromandel*, carry thither Spices, Copper of *Japan*, *Malacca* Tin, and Gold Oar from *Sumatra*, Quick-silver, Vermillion, Camphire, Elephants Teeth, Siampān and Sandal Wood.

The Kingdom of *Bengal* which belongs to the Great Mogul, is one of the largest and most fruitful Provinces of *Asia* ; Silk, Saltpeter, and Sugar, are produced here in great Plenty ; the Silk is look'd upon to be the best in all *India* ; the Village of *Cazambazar*, and the Neighbouring Villages, can furnish 32000 Bales, 100 Pound Weight each, the *Dutch* generally take six or 7000 Bales, and would more, were they permitted ; part they send into *Europe*, the rest they trade with to *Japan*.

The Saltpeter Trade is very considerable, for that Commodity is here produc'd in great Plenty, and there is no better in the World.

The *Dutch* have a Magazine or Place for Stores at *Choupar*, four Leagues below *Patna*, where they refine Saltpeter ; for if it be not refined



refined and made transparent, 'tis of little Value ; and when it is refined, 'tis three times dearer than before : But besides this, the *Dutch* bring from *Bengal* several sorts of woven Silks, and other Silk works, Callicoes, Musk, and fine Rhubarb ; these two last come from the Kingdom of *Boulan*, lying on the North of *Bengal* : The *Dutch* bring hither Spices, Copper, Tin, Lead, Quicksilver, Vermillion, Elephants Teeth, Siampan and Sandal Wood, Cloth, Coral and Amber.

All these Commodities are very gainful. The Company, the better to carry on this important Commerce, have several Store-houses in *Bengal*. *Ongly*, which is the chief Port, has a Magazine built all of Free-stone, defended by 4 Bastions, and a Fort, with good Ditches, mounted with 12 Pieces of Cannon ; and tho' this Place is 30 Leagues distant from the Mouth of the River *Ganges*, Ships nevertheless sail thither, by the Care they have taken to facilitate that Navigation.

The Trade of the Kingdoms of *Pegu*, *Siam*, and the Point of *Malacca*, is likewise very considerable : The first of which yields Lacca, Gold, Silver, Rubies and Sapphires.

They bring to these Places, Spices, Pepper, Sandal-Wood, Callicoes from *Golconda* and *Bengal*.

*Siam* is a large Kingdom, well peopled, and produces abundance of Rice, Elephants  
Teeth,

Teeth, Tin, Lead, *Siampan* Wood, which (is a good Commodity in all Parts of *India*) as well as Deer-skins, which they trade with to *Japan*: Here is also a great Quantity of Gold, and the finest and most beautiful Porcelain.

The *Dutch* take these Goods, and in return bring to *Siam*, Spices, Pepper, Amber, Red Coral, Quicksilver, Sandal Wood, Cloves, &c.

The Company, by a particular Priviledge they have, exclusive of all other Nations, bring hence *Ligor* Tin which they sell to several Parts of the *Indies* and *Europe* at a good Price.

The King of *Siam*, as powerful as he is, trades very much, and sends out Merchant Ships to several Parts of the *Indies*, and even to *Japan*, which makes *Siam*, his Capital City, very Famous for Traffick.

The Trade of the Point of *Malacca* is very considerable; the Company, by means of this important Place, do what they please in the Streights of *Malacca* and the neighbouring Places, viz. *Jor*, *Ligor*, *Jambi*, *Queda*, *Pera*, *Sumatra*, &c. in which there is a great vent for the rich Carpets of *Bengal*, and several sorts of Callicoes of the Coast of *Coromandel*: They bring thither also, Pieces of Eight; and have in return, especially at *Queda*, *Pera* and *Ligor*, good Quantities of Lead and Tin, two very necessary Commodities, and very profitable

table in the Company's Trade, especially at *Bengal* and *Persia*.

The chief Riches of the Kingdom of *Tonquin* consist in Silks, which is highly esteem'd and very beautiful, Musk, Lignum Aloes, &c. and by these the Traders of the Country, and the *Dutch*, gain a great deal of Gold from *China*, and Silver from *Japan*. The *Dutch* take off great Quantities of all these Commodities in Exchange of their Spices, Quicksilver, Vermillion, Amber and Cloth, &c.

The *China* Trade was always look'd on to be the richest of all *Asia*, on Account of the Value and great Quantities of Merchandize transported thence.

The *Portuguese* are the only Nation of *Europe* that have been permitted to settle at *Macar*, and trade openly in *China*.

In the Year 1686, they were still the only People that enjoy'd that Priviledge. I have been inform'd, by Persons that seem'd to be well vers'd in these Affairs, that the *English* and *Dutch* come into certain Ports of *China*, where they trade by the Authority of the Governour of the Province, neither of them having any Interest or Access to the Emperor's Court, as the *Portuguese* have.

From the very first time that the *Dutch* came into the *Indies*, they try'd all they could to establish their Commerce in *China*, but  
have

have ever been unsuccessful in their Attempts.

They conceiv'd, in the Year 1685, great Hopes to bring it to pass; there flew about a Report, that the Emperor being in peaceful Possession of all *China*, in the Design he had to make Trade flourish, was willing to permit all Foreign Traders to come and settle in all Maritime Places in his Dominions: Upon which the *Dutch* Company sent an Ambassador to that Monarch, to desire Liberty of Commerce.

In November 1686, News came to *Batavia*, that the Ambassador was arrived in *China*, and 'twas not doubted but he would accomplish his Designs.

*Here follows an exact Account of all the Commodities that are commonly brought from China, viz.*

Woven and Raw Silks of all sorts in great Quantities.

Tin, Copper, Steel, Iron, and several sorts of Tools and Instruments of different Metals curiously wrought.

Cotton, Callicoes, and Fine Camblets.

Hemp and Hempen Cloth.

Great Quantities of very fine Gold.

Precious Stones, Lapis Lazuli, and delicate Marble.

## DUTCH TRADE, &c. 143

Wood of *Aquila*, *Brazil*, and Ebony.

Tea, Sugar, Musk, and candied Ginger.

Quicksilver, *China*-Roots, and Rhubarb.

Pale and High-colour'd Amber.

Porcelain or *China*-Wine, and other Vessels of fine Earth.

Cabinets, and an infinity of other Wares finely varnished, not to be imitated elsewhere.

All these Commodities, and many others not here mention'd, are very profitable, most of them bring *Cent. per Cent.* and sometimes more, by reason of the small Price they go at in the Country.

All sorts of Necessaries for Life are very cheap in *China*, and the Artisans, who are very laborious, content themselves with a very little Profit.

*Here follows likewise a Catalogue of the principal Commodities fit to be carried into China, extracted from a Memorial given me by one of the Factors of the Dutch Company, viz.*

Spices and Pepper ; a great Quantity of the last.

Linnen of several sorts.

Cloths and fine Serges.

Tammys or Tamines, of all Sorts and Colours ; Red, White, and Black are most esteemed.

Elephants



Elephants Teeth and Sandal Wood.  
Amber, and White and Red Coral.  
Silver, to buy Gold.

The Inhabitants of *Sokiere* are the only *Chinese* that go out of their own Country to trade : They go to several Parts of *India*, particularly to *Batavia*, where a good Number of them have settled themselves.

The *Chinese* are born for Trade ; they are Enemies to Sloth ; they think nothing painful or troublesome, when there is the least Appearance of Gain : They are contented with a little, and what is easy to be come at : They are very hardy and enterprizing, dextrous and industrious : They have an extraordinary subtilty of Spirit ; and you must have all your Wits about you not to be over-reach'd by them in Dealing, when they have a Mind to it. 'Tis a common Saying with them, *That all Nations are Blind in Matters of Trade ; that the Dutch, and no other, have the Advantage of one Eye, but for them they have two.*

Nothing shows more their Abilities in Trade, than their Canals and Communications of Rivers one to another, to facilitate the Carriage of their Provisions and other Commodities from one Province to another, and their other Conveniences ; but the great Care they take to make Provisions equally cheap in all Places, contributes most to make Merchandize

dize bear a moderate Price, by consequence to have a good Vent.

*Japan*, a Country unknown before the *Portuguese* discovered it, is a Country of large Extent, where Strangers (that are permitted to trade thither) make very great Advantages.

While the *Portuguese* of *Macar* had this Trade, amongst other Commodities, they carried those of *China* to *Japan*; and in that Trade was expended every Year 1500000 *Livres*; the clear Profits of which, in 4 or 5 Months time, amounted to 75 *per Cent*.

The *Dutch* Company began to trade there about the Year 1650; and since the Year — when the *Portuguese* were entirely driven out of that Country, the *Dutch* were the only People of *Europe* who were permitted to trade there, which they continue to do with great Profit, but are under this hard Constraint to live in the Peninsula of *Dizmia*, near the Town of *Nagasaqui*, and dare not go out of that Peninsula, without the Governour's Leave, on pain of being cut to Pieces: The *Japanese* have such strict Eyes over their Conduct, that they can do nothing but the Governour of the Town knows it, either by Spies, or Guards that are placed at the Gates of the Quarter they inhabit; so jealous and distrustful is that Nation, and this constraint lasts 8 Months; and the Formalities that they are

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forced

forced to observe the rest of the Year, when the Shipping arrives for their lading, is no less troublesome than inconvenient.

The *Dutch* bring to *Japan* yearly, Silk, raw and woven, in great quantities, Cloths, Two Hundred Thousand Deer-skins, One Hundred Thousand raw Hides, a great deal of Hemp, Linnen, Wooll, Quicksilver, Cloves, Pepper, Sugar, Musk, Camphire and Borax, *Siampan* and *Brazil* Wood, *China* ware, *Calembac*, Elephants-Teeth and small wares (such as the *Chinese* used to bring thither :) Silver and Copper, are the principal Commodities to bring thence, and tho' Gold is there very plenty, yet it is prohibited to be carried out of the Kingdom.

There are no Imposts upon any Goods that come or go out of that Kingdom. I cannot tell the Number of the Ships, the Company employs in that Commerce, but generally some come to *Batavia*, and the rest to *Malacca*; when the Company desired so earnestly, that they might settle their Commerce with *China*; it was, because such Commerce seem'd to be, not only of vast Advantage to them in Relation to their Trade in *Europe* and the *Indies* in general, but of great Consequence to them in respect of their Trade to *Japan*.

This made One of their Governours-General express himself after this Manner, upon

the Subject of the *Japan* Trade in a Letter to the Company.

‘ If we could but hinder the *Chinese* from trading to that Country, there would every Year above Fifty Tun of Gold, or else the Value of Five Millions to be got by their Silks only; for the Commodities they carry thither yields 80 *per Cent*. Would to God we were the only People that enjoy’d the Benefit of that happy Trade, and that the Mine of *Formosa* abounded with Gold. If my Hopes and Wishes could prevail, those that are concerned in the Company, will be well satisfied, for they will enjoy all the Profits of the *Indian* Trade without sending any Money from Holland, which is all they have to desire of God in their Prayers.

I have often heard say by those who are of the Company, that they would be too Rich, if they did not lose some of those Ships that are employed in that Trade; for the *Indian* Seas are very tempestuous.

The Trade of the Isle of *Ceylan* is entirely in the *Dutch* Hands, being Masters of all the Coasts, by reason of the strong Places they possess in those Parts: The King of *Candi* holds the rest of the Island, he was never yet Conquer’d, nor Aw’d, either by the *Dutch* or *Portuguese*.

The best Cinamon is the principal Commodity that Island produces, there is besides a great

Quantity of Elephants Teeth, and other Goods of less Consequence.

*Sumatra* is one of the most considerable Islands in the *Indies*, and has several Kings, amongst whom the King of *Achem* makes the greatest Figure; the *Dutch* notwithstanding may be said to be Masters there, by reason of the strong Place of *Malacca*, which is only separated from it by a small streight; and the Forts and Magazines they have in several Places especially towards the West, they are likewise in Possession of a vast tract of Land: Besides they have made themselves Masters of all the Trade of the Island, by several Treaties signed with the Kings and the other Sovereigns; by which they are obliged to sell their Pepper and Gold Dust to no other Nation. These are the chief Commodities of the Country, to which may be added Camphire and Benzoin, these Four are most proper for the Trade of the Company, who sell in the Island great Quantities of Salt, and all Sorts of Linnen.

*Java* is an Island governed in like Manner by several Kings, the King of *Matavia*, otherwise called Emperor of *Java*, and the King of *Bantam* are the most considerable: But the *Dutch* Power is so great by reason of *Batavia* and other Fortresses, that I believe it may with very good reason be said, they are as much Masters of that Island as they are of its Trade, which is entirely in their Hands since they have  
had



had *Bantam*; It is certain the Company would make vast Advantage by selling Linnen and other Commodities if this Trade was not somewhat diverted by other Nations trading hither, so that the vent of this sort of Goods was considerably diminished in the Year 1688: They bring chiefly Pepper from the Isle of *Java* and *Bantam*, and before the *Dutch* were Masters of these Places, the Merchants of *Europe* used to resort hither to take in their lading.

The Isle of *Borneo* is without dispute, the largest in the *Indies*, the Inhabitants the most perfidious and treacherous of all the *Indians*, have more than once rob'd the Magazine of the Company, and cut in peices all those that were in it, the better to pillage them: The treachery of those People which is natural to them, is the reason that the Company gives them leave to bring their Diamonds and Camphire to *Batavia*.

The Island of *Macassar* is divided amongst several petty Kings, of whom the King of *Macassar* is the most powerful, and one of the most dangerous Enemies the Company has in the *Indies*; this Island produces great quantities of Rice, Pepper, Sandal, and *Siampan* Wood. It is said that there is likewise Store of Gold dust and Tortoise-shell, Commodities that go off well in the great *Mogul's* Country and in *Europe*, the Company maintains a considerable

Garrison in the Fort of *Macassar* which is a Haven of extream consequence for the Spice Trade.

The Island of *Amboina* and many others of great Resort, as *Banda*, *Ternate*, &c. are possessed (to use the Expression) in propriety by the Company, which makes them Masters of the rich Commodities of Cloves, Nutmegs, and Mace, which grow no where else.

The Island of *Amboina* yields only Cloves, which is a Commodity that sells well all the World over; it is but not the Isles of *Ternate*, *Bachiam*, and *Machiam* &c. which are properly speaking the *Molucca* Islands produce this Spice as well as *Amboina*, but the Company made the Trees every Year to be rooted up reserving only those in *Amboina*, which Island alone is sufficient to produce more than the whole World can consume: The People of this Island sell every Year to the Company or their Officers, their Cloves at a low Price; and they are obliged to take all the Crop if I may use the Word, how great soever it be; whence it often appears that their Stock is greater than they can possibly dispose of.

*Batavia* always supplies the Inhabitants of this Place with Provisions for their Subsistence, for they are very lazy, and 'tis impossible otherwise to make them work in their Spiceries; the Trade here consisting only in Linnen and Cloths, is very inconsiderable.

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The Isle of *Banda* is the only Place that produces Nutmegs and Mace, the Company are entirely Masters of the Trade of this Island, exclusive of all other Nations as well as that of *Ambocina*; the Company vend here very few Commodities, except a small Quantity of Stuffs and such like Goods; the Country being small and ill Peopled, which makes the Company send hither likewise Provisions from *Batavia*.

The *Molucca* Islands are Five in Number, and are called *Ternate*, *Tidor*, *Machiam*, *Bachiam*, and *Motire*; they are situated on the West of the Isle of *Gillo*, most of these Islands are no more than Eight or Ten Leagues in compass, they are all of them very agreeable and pleasant, and tho' they have their Kings, yet the *Dutch* in reality may be said to be their Masters and Sovereigns; by reason of the Forts they have there. These Islands were heretofore very famous and much frequented, on account of the Cloves they produced in such vast Quantities before the *Dutch* caus'd all the Trees to be plucked up.

The Island of *Ternate* is the most considerable, there is a great Consumption in that Place of coarse Linnen; the *Dutch* bring thence Tortoise shell which is very good, but there is but a small Quantity: The Company pays yearly Pensions to the King and other Lords of *Ternate*, as an Acknowledgment for their consenting to the Destruction of the Clove Trees.

There are some other Islands in this Province, as *Bantam*, *Tidor*, &c. but they are very ill cultivated and produces little necessaries of Life: The Company trades thither as well as to those just now mentioned, in Linnen, Provisions, and Pieces of Eight from *Mexico*.

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## SECTION V.

*Remarks on what Commodities the Dutch bring into Europe from the East-Indies.*

I Shall divide into Four Classes the several Commodities that the *Dutch* Company causes to be brought into *Europe* from the *East-Indies*.

The First shall contain Spices and Drugs,  
 The Second Silks,  
 The Third Cotton and Callicoes,  
 The Fourth Mettals, precious and common,  
 Porcelain or *China* ware, &c.

I comprehend under the name of Spices, Cloves, Nutmegs and Cinnamon.

There are Two Sorts of Cinnamon, the fine, and common or mild Cinnamon; the fine grows only in the Isle of *Ceylan*, in a small tract of Ground of about Fourteen or Fifteen Leagues

Leagues long on the Sea side, but in reality that Spot of Ground is so very fruitful, that it is sufficient to furnish the whole World, considering the little Consumption there is of this Spice at present.

The *Dutch* who are entirely Masters of all the Sea-coast of *Ceylan*, hinder the Multiplication of these fine Cinnamon Trees, on purpose to keep up the Price of that rich Commodity; they tell you that they should not sell greater Quantities were it cheaper: it would be a very difficult Matter to persuade them to let any One share this Commerce with them, and even in that Case it would be very chargeable and expensive.

There is no young Lover so jealous of his Mistress as the *Dutch* are of their Spice Trade.

Their Fleet that returned in the Year 1687, brought into *Holland* 170000 weight of Cinnamon, which was but a small Quantity in Comparison to what they brought the Year before.

The *Dutch* omit no pains to destroy the Trees. They say that the chief Motives they had in possessing themselves of *Cochin*, was on account of the Damage they received by the *Portuguese* selling the wild Cinnamon for that of *Ceylan*, which hindred the Company from setting what Price they pleased on theirs; and selling what Quantities they otherwise might.

Though



Though the *Molucca* Islands and *Amboina* the chief Places where Cloves grow, are of no very large extent, yet *Amboina* only produces all the Cloves that are used in all Parts of the World; for the *Dutch* who are Masters of these Islands by Means of their Fortresses, have caused all the Trees to be rooted up as I said before, except those of *Amboina*: And to make the King of *Ternate* Satisfaction for that Loss, the Company allows every Year 12000 Crowns Pension, and about 6000 in Presents.

But then the Company is obliged to take all that the *Amboiners* bring them, for which they are to allow them 8. *d.* a Pound.

Nutmegs and Mace grow only in the Isle of *Banda*, of which the *Dutch* are likewise Masters, and they take great care to hinder the increase of these Trees, and have used the same precautions to secure to themselves this rich Commerce, as well as that of Cinnamon and Cloves.

They were not Masters of the Cloves and Nutmegs, till they had conquered the King of *Macassar*, and to rid themselves of all Apprehensions for the future, they obliged him to drive all the *Portuguese* out of his Country, and shut out of his Sea-ports all Ships that should come from *Europe* except those belonging to the *Dutch* Company, which has effectually made them absolute Masters of that rich Trade: For the People of the Isle of *Macassar* being near  
Neigh-

Neighbours to those of the *Molucca* Islands used to take under Hand vast Quantities of Cloves and Nutmegs, and sell them to the *Portuguese* and *English* at a lower Price than the Company, which did not a little prejudice their Commerce.

In short the *Dutch* have spared no Pains to secure (to themselves only) the Spice Trade; Spices being Commodities much esteemed and sought after all over the World and wholly possessed by the *Dutch*, have put them in a Condition to dispose of all other Commodities in the Universe: In a Word the Spices are the Basis of their great Commerce, and go as ready Money in a great many Countries.

How great soever the Quantities of Cloves brought into *Europe* may be, they sell yet much more in the *Indies*, where the Company have fixed the Price of Cloves to 75 Stivers a Pound, and Nutmegs after the rate of 60 Stivers when they give them in Payment.

An *English* Memorial made in the Year 1663 says that the *Dutch* with the Spices that they sell in the Great-Mogul's Country, *Persia*, *Bengal* and *Coromandel*, and all along the Coasts of the Red-Sea both in *Arabia* and *Egypt* &c. buy the Provisions and other Commodities of these vast Kingdoms, proper for *Europe* and other Parts of the World.

To the Spices I may add, Pepper and Ginger.

Pep-

Pepper grows chiefly on the Coast of *Malabar*, and in the Island of *Sumatra* and *Java*, of which there are two sorts, the large and small; most part of the large sort comes from *Malabar*, and is what generally is sent into *Europe*; the small comes from *Bantam*, *Achem*, &c. very little of this sort comes to us, for the *Mahometans* consume almost all of it.

Pepper is a Commodity that abounds very much in those Parts, and costs the *Dutch* but little in the *Indies*: It sells so well in *Persia*, *Arabia*, *China*, and *Japan*; that those Empires produce nothing but what may be purchased by Pepper, which is the only Commodity that goes as ready Money, and by which they get *Cent per Cent* at least.

It is very true that there is greater Consumption of Pepper in the *Indies* than in *Europe*, and I have been assured by Persons of good Credit and Capacity, that it is more wholesome in those hot Countries than in cold and temperate Climates.

The *Indians* put it whole into their Dishes or at most but bruised and never ground as we do, and so do the *Mahometans*.

The *English* have often complained ( and not without Reason ) that the *Dutch* do all they can to make themselves Masters of the Pepper as they now are of the Spice Trade, and particu-

ticularly in the Parliament which was held in the Year 1669, after this Manner, *viz.*

‘ We are very well assured that the *Dutch* have long since had a Design to force the Princes and Governours along the Coasts of *Malabar, Achem, the Western Coast of Sumatra and Java &c.* and those Princes and Governours have often reported, that they have forced them not only to enter into Treaties with them in Relation to their Pepper and other Commodities of the growth of their Country, but in their Treaties of Peace, have ty’d them up to hinder all other Nations from trading with them; and have actually made War against those who would not accept of such Conditions, they have even block’d up their Ports and forbid Entrance to other People: And by these Means, have taken from them all liberty of Trade, till such Times as they have made them comply with their Demands, which practices tend to the Ruin of the *English* Trade in the *East-Indies*.

Ginger is the Root of a Tree somewhat like a Rose-Tree, growing about *Malabar*, a Town in the Great-Mogul’s Country, and which yields the greatest Quantities; and supplies all foreign Parts. The *Indians, English, Dutch*, and all the People of the North, use a great deal of candied Ginger to warm the Stomach and help Digestion.

Amongst the Drugs I may reckon Indigo, Saltpetre, Sugar, Lacca, Ambergreece, Musk, Tea, Rhubarb, Borax, Benzoin, Bezoar, &c.

Indigo is made of an Herb much resembling our Hemp, they rot the leaves in little Ponds made for that Purpose which reduce them to a Kind of Clay, and then a little afterwards it becomes Indigo; all that which comes from the *East-Indies* (for there is some that comes likewise from the *West-Indies*) is made only in the *Mogul's* Country, except a small Quantity that comes from the Kingdom of *Golconda*, that which is made in the Province of *Agra* is esteemed the best.

It is believed the *Dutch* every Year bring into *Europe*, 50 or 60 Thousand Weight of Indigo from *Agra*, good part of which is sent into *Germany*, and *Muscovy*, where they use it as as they do in other Countrys, for dying Blue.

Saltpetre as well as Indigo comes from the *Mogul's* Country *Agra*, and *Pattua*, two Towns in the Kingdom of *Bengal*, yield the most: This is a very considerable Article in the *Dutch* Trade, and from thence they bring vast Quantities and as good as any in the World. The last Fleet that came from the *Indies* on the Companies Account, brought 28170 Quintals which was all consumed in *Holland* in making Gun-powder for the Republick.

There



There is also in the said Kingdom of *Bengal* much coarse Sugar, which the *Dutch* buy in great Quantities to refine in *Holland* and sell afterwards with great Profit.

*Lacca* is particularly to be had in the Kingdoms of *Pegu*, and *Azen*, and in the Province of *Bengal* and *Guzoratte*: It is a Kind of Gum which exquisite Production is made by a Sort of *Indian* Ant or Pismire, much after the same Manner as the Bees make their Honey.

There is red *Lacca* and black, but there is nothing the Quantity of the black as the red Sort; out of the red, the *Indians* have the Secret to extract that beautiful Scarlet Colour with which they dye their Silks and Callicoes, and they make it serve for any other Colour they please; they also use it to lacquer their fine Cabinets and other *Indian* Works, and to make a Kind of Sealing-Wax. 'Tis a good Commodity for the *Dutch*, for it costs in *India* generally Ten Stivers a Pound, and they sell it to us at Ten Stivers an Ounce after they have mix'd with it half the Quantity of *Rozin*, which makes their Gain exorbitant.

*Rhubarb* is the Root of a Plant of great vertue in Physick, it grows in great Quantities in *Tartary*, and particularly in the Kingdom of *Bouton*, as well as in *China*; however the most understanding Traders agree, that which grows in the Kingdom of *Bouton* is the best: I have

said something of this in the Chapter of the *Levant Trade*.

The finest Musk comes also from the Kingdom of *Bouton*, and there is no Country in *Asia* where there are so many of those Animals that produce it as in that Kingdom, which is situated between the *Great-Mogul's* Country and *Tartary*, and little known to the People of *Europe*.

The Merchants of *Asia* go into this Kingdom to buy this Commodity, there comes a great deal by the Way of *Pattua* a Town in the Kingdom of *Bengal*, where the People of the Country, and the *Dutch*, and *Portugueze* generally buy it; there is a far greater Consumption of it in *Asia*, and especially in *Persia*, *Turky*, &c. than in *Europe*; it grows in a little Bladder of the bigness of a small Hen's Egg, between the Navel and the Privities of those Animals that produce this precious Commodity.

Amber-greece is only to be had in the Eastern Countries of *Africa*, but chiefly on the Coast of *Melinda* near the Mouth of *Riosena*, the *Portugueze* Governours of *Mozambique*, lay up great Quantities which they carry with them into *Europe* and sell for vast Sums.

Tea grows in some Provinces of *China*, and is nothing but the leaves of a Tree that grows about Twelve or Fourteen Foot High, and which they gather in the Spring Time, taking  
only

only the Leaves about the Branches; as soon as these Leaves are gathered, they dry them in Copper Pans over the Fire, continually shaking them till they are dry; after that they put them in Leaden Boxes. There is a great Quantity grows in *Japan*, and the *Dutch* furnish themselves thence with this Commodity as well as from *Cochin-China*, the *Japan* Tea is better than that of *China* and *Cochin-China*; the best *China* Tea costs at *Surat* but twenty pence a pound, which the *Dutch* sell in *Europe* for twenty Crowns, and the worst Sort for 25 and 30 Livres.

The *Dutch* have been often accused of mixing with the Tea they bring into *Europe*, the Leaves of young Sage which has a strong Taste and brisk Flavour, and when dried in an Oven is not unlike Tea; but People may very easily be imposed on, and I am pretty well assured that they bring a great deal of Sage prepared after this Manner into *China*, where they sell it very dear.

I shall purposely omit what may be said of Borax, Camphire, Benzoin, and Bezoar; that I may come to the Raw and Woven Silks, since these Commodities make One of the greatest Articles in their *Indian* Trade: They have their Silk chiefly from *China*, the Kingdoms of *Tonquin*, *Tripura*, *Azem*, *Bengal*, and *Persia*; the Silks are of several Sorts.

That of *China* is the finest and whitest; that of *Tonquin* is also very good and soft; People are of Opinion that these of *Tripara* and *Azem* are much coarser; the *Bengal* Silks are rough and without any gloss or lustre, for which Reason there is not much Consumption made of them but in the Manufactures of *Holland* and *Hamburg*: That of *Persia*, which is full and large, is only good to make coarse Laces and Galloons, Silk Thread and Twist, and there is scarce Twenty Pound in any Bale whatsoever.

There is a Sort of Silk in *China*, and in the Kingdom of *Azem*, which is spun upon Trees and Bushes by a Kind of Animal like a Caterpillar, but not round as that of the Silkworm, but in a flat thread of a vast length, which, by the blowing of the Wind, fixes it self to Shrubs and Bushes: Of this Silk they make Stuffs somewhat coarser than what are made of the other Sort, though much stronger.

They weave Silks of all sorts in several Countries and Provinces of *Asia* where raw Silk is produced, except in the Kingdom of *Tripara*, which sends its raw Silks to *China*.

All this Empire produces a prodigious Quantity (for I've been assured that the Province of *Cheng* produces as much as all the World besides) they weave Silks here in such great Quantities, as is almost incredible

They make Silk Stuffs, Cloth of Gold and Silver, Sattins of all sorts of Colours, Damasks and other Silks which they call in *China* Pelings, Gentings, and Panfiens.

They make these Stuffs for the most Part in the Province of *Canton*, where they are sold at a moderate Price; One may get *Cent per Cent* to sell them again if bought at the First Hand.

I shall say nothing of their Beauty and Goodness, for they are well known to all *Europe*.

The *Chinese* (if One may credit their Historians) have made Silk Two Thousand and Fourscore Years before the Birth of Christ, however it is certain other Nations knew it long after the *Chinese*, and it was by their Means that this Manufacture went from *China*, into the *Indies* and *Persia*. Two Monks who had travelled into that Country, at their Return to *Italy*, taught First the *Romans* in the Time of the Emperor *Justinian*, the Manner of feeding and bringing up of Silkworms, and since that Time the *Italians* who traded to the East, brought this Secret into *Europe*.

In the Great *Mogul's* Country, they make likewise a great many Sorts of rich Stuffs of Silk, some all Silk, some with Gold and Silver as they do in *Persia*. But enough of this Subject: I come now to speak of

Cotton and Callicoes, which are a great Article in the *Dutch East India Trade*.



Cotton grows in great abundance in the Great *Mogul's* Country, on the Coasts of *Coromandel*, *Bengal*, and *China*; they make in all these Countries a prodigious Quantity of all Sorts of Callicoës, but chiefly in the Empire of the *Great-Mogul*.

The Callicoës are both White and coloured, the White are generally the finest, and have commonly a stripe of Gold or Silver running all along the Piece, and many have those stripes at each End; sometimes they are embroidered with Flowers. These Callicoës are very dear and bought by Persons of Distinction for Scarves, Quilts, and Veils, Handkerchiefs, and Cravats; they sell great Quantities in *Persia* and *Turky*. There are some Callicoës wonderfully White and so very finely wrought, that One can scarce see the Threads, and these are generally kept for the Use of the Women in the *Great-Mogul's* Seraglio.

The fine Muslins come from the Kingdom of *Bengal* where they are made, the coloured Callicoës are called Chintz or Chittes, some of which are printed with a Mould, others painted with a Pencil; and in reality, the variety of the Design and the fine colourings of these Cloaths are wonderful.

These that are painted the finest, are made in the Kingdom of *Golconda* and in the Country about *Mazulipatam*, that Sort which they call *Basfas* are only Dyed with one Colour

as Red or Black, of which as well as the White there is a great Consumption on the Coast of *Melinda*, and in the Emperor of the *Abyssin's* Country; the *Philippine* Islands of *Borneo*, *Sumatra* and *Java*, &c.

Next to the Spices, the Callicoets and other Cotton Stuffs make one of the most considerable Articles in the *Dutch East-India* Trade; for besides those surprising Quantities they bring into *Europe*, which may be seen by the Catalogues or Lists of their Cargoes, the Company sells no less in the several Countries of *Asia* where they Trade to.

I take no Notice of Cotton Thread brought into *Europe*, Cloth made of the Bark of Trees, *Persian* Wooll, and the fine Woollen Carpets made at *Agra*.

Tho' the People of *Europe* who trade to the *Indies* bring back neither Gold nor Silver, but on the contrary carry both into these Countries, I shall in few Words give an Account of the Places where these valuable Mettals are to be had, and which are so very necessary for the *Dutch* Company to make their Trade flourish in the *Indies*.

There is a great Quantity of Gold in many Places of *Asia*, especially in *China* and *Japan*; in the Kingdoms of *Pegu*, *Siam*, *Azem*, *Tripura*, and *Camboja*, and in the Islands of *Sumatra* and *Macassar*: But *China* is the Country of all *Asia* where it most abounds, not but

that they have very rich Mines of Gold in *Japan*, but there is none ever suffered to come out ; the Emperor having prohibited it under severe Penalties, and his Commands are rigorously observed.

As the *Chinese* are very fond of Silver, and have very little of it, they make no Difficulty to give their Gold for Silver ; and there is vast Profit to be made by those who know how to manage this Exchange.

They omit no Pains to get the Piaſtres or Pieces of Eight of *Mexico*, and they get good Quantities by the People of the *Philippine* Islands, who Trade to *Mexico*.

Silver Mines are nothing near so numerous in *Asia* as those of Gold, and indeed there seems to be but very little Silver there ; since there is scarce any Prince from the Great-Mogul's Country to *Japan* that coins any Money : In Truth the riches of the Mines in the Mogul's Country are so great, that they pay for all Goods brought thither in Gold as they do in *China* ; and as the *Dutch* are the only Nation in *Europe* that Trade to *Japan*, and their Trade to that Country is very considerable ; so they bring thence a great deal of Silver which generally is in Pieces of the Value of our Crowns, they carry almost all that Money into the Great Mogul's Country, where Commissioners of Money give them 3 per Cent more than they will for our Crowns.

The *Dutch* bring from *Japan*, a sort of Red Copper which is excellent and much better than most of what is in *Europe*, being softer and more malleable and pliant, which makes it 25 per Cent dearer: The Company carry much of it to the Coasts of *Coromandel* and *Bengal*, and dispose of it to great Advantage; that which they bring into *Europe*, is sent to *Aix-la-Chappel* to be workt up there in small and large Vessels, Copper Furnaces, &c. and good Quantities of it is employed in the Foundery for Cannons, &c. their *Indian* Fleet in the Year 1694, brought 27650 Pound Weight, and those that have come since, have brought Six Times as much.

Tin and Lead abound very much in the Kingdom of *Siam*, and towards *Malacca*; the *Dutch* have the Privilege to buy those Commodities at *Ligor*.

The Tin Trade is very profitable to the *Dutch*, and they buy it with *Bengal* Carpets and *Coromandel* Linnen, which they purchase very cheap. Tin sells very well in other Sea Ports in the *Mogul's* Country, and in *Persia*, and *Arabia*: The *Dutch* have often brought into *Europe* very great Quantities of Tin, their Fleet in the Year 1694, brought about 28845 Pound Weight, and what they have brought since, is Five or Six Times as much, which they sell with vast Profit, though it is very fine and they sell it cheap.

What remains now, is that I speak a few Words about Pearls and precious Stones, Porcelain or *China* Ware.

The Diamond is no where to be found but in Four Countries of *Asia*.

The First Place is the Kingdom of *Visapore*; the Second *Golconda*; the Third the Kingdom of *Bengal* subject to the Great *Molgul*; and the Fourth is the Isle of *Borneo*.

It is believed that the Mine of *Bengal* is the oldest in the World.

That of *Visapore* was only known about 200 Years ago.

The Mine of *Golconda* which is Seven Days Journey from the Capital of that Name, has been known no more than 120 Years, yet I have been inform'd that it is the richest and most frequented of any; it employing constantly above 60000 People.

The *Portugueze* are supposed to bring into *Europe* the most Diamonds of any People; perhaps on Account of their Trade which to this Day is still carried on in *Goa* the chief City of the *Indies* for Traffick, especially for Oriental Pearls.

The other precious Stones of several fine Colours come likewise out of *Asia*, but are only found in the Kingdom of *Hava* (which is in subjection to the King of *Pegu*) and in the Isle of *Ceylan*.



The Mine of the Kingdom of *Hava* is in the Mountain of *Capelan*, about Two Days Journey from *Ciren* the Residence of the King of *Pegu*; this Mine produces great Quantities of Rubies, Sapphires Blue and White, Topazes, Hyacinths, and Amethysts; of which the King keeps always the most beautiful.

They find likewise Rubies, Sapphires, and Topazes, much finer and more beautiful than those of *Pegu*, in a River which falls down the Mountains that are in the middle of the Isle of *Ceylan*.

Turquoise Stones come from *Persia*, the Mine is in the Mountain of *Pirouskoua* three or Four Days Jouruey from the City of *Mescheda*.

The old Rock is now kept for the Royal Family only, the Turquoise Stones of the new Rock being nothing near so good; having not so fine and lively Colour as the old Rock.

The Mine of the fine Oriental Agates, is in the Province of *Camboya*.

Pearls are fished for in the *Persian* Gulph round the Island of *Barbem*, belonging to the King of *Persia*; they fish for them also over against the Coast of *Arabia-Felix* near the Town of *Catiff*, which belongs to an *Arabian* Prince. The Pearls of these Two Places have a Yellowish cast; the greatest Part of these Pearls they sell in the *Indies*, the other in the Provinces of *Asia* and *Muscovy*, where they are not so diffi-

difficult as in *Europe*, about the Shape and Water of Pearls.

There is also a Fishery for Pearls in the Streight of the Isle of *Ceylan* near the little Isle of *Manar*, now in Possession of the *Dutch* Company; they will have it, that these are the finest in all the East for roundness and Colour, but very few of them Weigh above Three or Four Carats.

There are Pearls to be found on the Coast of *Japan*, of a very beautiful Water and of a good large size, but this Fishery is much neglected, the *Japonese* as well as the *Chinese* never troubling themselves much about Pearls or precious Stones.

The *Dutch* Company besides these Pearls just now spoken of, send into *Europe*, another sort of Pearl which they sell by the Ounce, and for which they have a considerable vent.

Porcelain, or what we call China ware, is only made in *China* and *Japan*; but that of *China* is much more valuable.

The Earth they make this last sort of China is only found and prepared near the Town *Ojencken* in the Province of *Viangly*, and where only they make it; for the Waters of no other Place can give such beautiful Lustre to the Colours, or make the Work transparent: There are several sorts of China or Porcelain, some have a White Ground, some Yellow, Red, and Blue; the *Chinese* carry a great Deal of this Ware

Ware to *Batavia* and other Places, and dispose of great Quantities.

There are also great Quantities of China or Porcelain as well as other Goods, brought into *Europe* from the *Indies* by the Fleet from *Mexico* or *New Spain*, and which come thither in the Ships belonging to the *Philippine* Islands.

One may reckon among Porcelain or China Ware, those earthen Pots the *Chinese* make their Tea in, and of which they bring great Quantities into *Europe*; they make these Pots at *Kiantz* and *Guibinig*, those that are made in this latter Place are esteemed the most (tho' not so beautiful as the others,) because they give a fine Taste and Flavour to the Liquor, which the *Chinese* admire.

They bring also from *China* and *Japan*, Cabinets, Boxes, Fans, Trunks, and several other Things of that Nature, of admirable Workmanship and delicately varnished.

I come now to conclude these Remarks, and shall only add in short that of the several Sorts of Wood that the Company causes to be brought from the *Indies*, either for Joiners Work, Physick, or Dying; the principal are *Aquila* Wood, *Siampan*, (which is the same as *Brazil*) *Lignum Aloes*, *Sindal*, and *Rose Wood*, *Ebony*, *Calambour*, *Catatour*, and *Cocoa*; most of which sell very well even in the *Indies*.

All these sorts of Goods are brought into *Europe* by Ships belonging to the Company, which

which Sail generally from *Batavia* and the Isle of *Ceylan*, which are likewise the Places of Rendezvouz for those that come from *Coromandel* and *Bengal*.

But the general Rendezvouz of all Shipping that come from the *Indies* into *Europe*, is almost always at the *Cape of Good-Hope*, whence afterwards they Sail altogether for *Europe*; sometimes indeed it so falls out, that the First Squadron does not stay for the Second, especially if they have waited long for their arrival. They Sail generally from the *Indies* in the Month of *December* and *January*, and come into *Holland* towards *July* and *August*, and sometimes later.

The Directors of the *India* Company make Sale of their Goods in *Holland* twice a Year. When the Company has resolved upon a Sale, they send printed circular Letters, to every Town of the united Provinces, in which are inserted the Names and Quantities of such Goods they Design to make Sale of and the Time and Place, when and where such Sale is to be made: One Half is generally sold in the Chamber at *Amsterdam*, the Fourth Part at *Middlebourg*, and a Sixth in the several Chambers of *Delft*, *Rotterdam*, *Horn*, and *Enchbuisen*; and these Goods are sold to the highest Bidder.

The Ships that bring into *Europe* the Returns from the *Indies*, bring likewise the Books and Memoirs concerning the Trade of the  
 Coin-

Company, with a general Ballance of the Profits, Disbursements and Losses they have had in their *India* Trade.

The Company causes also in *Holland* a general Account to be made in the Month of *May*, Copies of which they cause to be published, so that every Body knows by that whether the Company has lost, and how much their Funds are encreased, and the Stock rises and falls accordingly.

## CHAP. XIV.

*Of the Government of the Company both in Europe and Asia, its Power, Policy, and Profits.*

**T**Hough the Company which is composed of Threescore Shares is but One Body, and has but One common Purse, it is nevertheless divided into Six Chambers, *viz.*

1. The Chamber of *Amsterdam* which has Half a Share.

2. The Chamber of *Middlebourg* which has a Fourth.

3. The Chamber of *Rotterdam*.

4. The Chamber of *Delft*.

5. The Chamber of *Horn*.

6. The



6. The Chamber of *Enchuyfen*, which Four last Chambers altogether have only One Quarter or Fourth Share.

In the Chamber of *Amsterdam* there are 24 Directors, of whom Twenty are Citizens and Magistrates, except Five or Six Merchants, who govern almost all what concerns Sales and Purchases, for the Company, and Provisions: These Twenty Directors have each of them Three Thousand Guilders Pension, the other Four have only Twelve Hundred, and are nominated by the Towns of *Tergou*, *Utrecht*, *Dort*, and *Leyden*.

The Chamber of *Middlebourg*, has Thirteen Directors who have each 2500 Guilders Pension.

To be Director, a Man must necessarily have Two Shares in the Stock, and be in the Registers of the Company.

Every One of these Chambers nominates a certain Number of Directors which are deputed to compose the Assembly or Court called the Seventeen.

*Amsterdam* names Eight.

*Middlebourg* Four.

The other Chambers, One each.

*Middlebourg*, the *Meuse* or North *Holland* names One alternately.

Thus

Thus the Chamber of *Amsterdam* having Eight Voices of the Seventeen, has only One to gain, to carry every Thing as they please.

The general Assembly or Court of Seventeen is held only twice or thrice a Year most commonly at *Amsterdam*, and sometimes at *Middlebourg*; this Court or Assembly by plurality of Voices, resolves all Matters relating to Shipping, sale of Goods, and Dividends, and names the Governour General of the *Indies* for Trade.

In a Word the Assembly of Seventeen, decides generally all the Affairs of Consequence relating to the *East-India* Company.

This famous Company governs all the Territories the *Dutch* possess in the *Indies* which are very considerable, as also all Commerce which is managed by a Council of State arbitrarily chosen and whose Residence is in *Batavia*.

This Council is composed of a Governour General who is their President, and has Two Voices.

A Director General.

Six ordinary Counsellors of State.

And as many extraordinary as the Company shall think fit.

The Governour is also their Generalissimo in all Military Affairs on the other Side of the *Cape of Good Hope*.

He has under him a Major General.

Particular Admirals

And

And the Admirals of each Squadron.

The Office of Governour General is only to give Orders, and is accountable to none, they chuse him every Three Years, but commonly he is continued on as long as he lives; for 'twould cost the Company too much to have a Governour General get an Estate under them every Three Years.

The Company allows him every Month 800 Crowns Pension, and 500 Crowns more for his Table, besides the Entertainment of all his Family, which is a very considerable Expence.

He has a Key to every Magazine and can take out what he will, without giving an Account to any One.

It may be said his Authority in some sort would equal that of the late Princes of *Orange*, was it not in the Company's Power to revoke it when they pleased; for in Effect he is *Stadtholder*, *Captain General*, and *High Admiral* of the *Indies*.

His Court is more Pompous, his Train more Magnificent than was that of those Princes, and surpasses even some Kings in *Europe*. When he goes out 50 Horse Guards go before his Coach, which is followed by a fine Company of Foot, 12 Pages walk of each side of his Coach and all very richly and Magnificently drest. When he gives Audience to the Ambassadors of the *Indi-*

an Kings, 'tis with extraordinary Pomp and Splendour.

All which serves very much to gain Admiration and Respect from the People of *Asia* who are mightily taken with outward show and finery. In a Word there are few Kings in *Europe* who make so splendid a Figure and Appearance as this Governour General, especially if he be a Man of good Sense, for then it is in his Power to govern the Council as he pleases: The World has seen an Example of this in the Person of Monsieur *Speelman*; who did every Thing after his own Way, made War and Peace when he pleased, and the Company's General that stood in awe of him approved of every Thing he did.

The Director General who is the second Person of the Council of State in the *Indies*, has every Thing in his Hands, and is answerable accordingly.

The Votes of the extraordinary Counsellours are not reckoned in any Debate, when the General and the six ordinary Counsellours of State are present.

When a Counsellor dies or any other Member of the Assembly, 'tis in the Power of the Counsellours to appoint his Successor, who must be confirmed by the general Company; if I am not much mistaken Monsieur *Champtiffe* who succeeded Monsieur *Speelman*, was chosen by the Council, and confirmed by the Company.

Besides these, there are Two principal Merchants whose charge is to see the Ships lade and unlade; these are very considerable Posts, and are esteemed the best, next being of the Council.

There are six Governours of Provinces, viz.

The Governour of *Coromandel*.

The Governour of *Amboina*.

The Governour of *Banda*.

The Governour of *Ternate*.

The Governour of the Isle of *Ceylan*, and

The Governour of *Malacca*.

I have been assured that those six Governours are all Absolute in their respective Provinces, and that they cannot be displaced by the Council of *Batavia*.

The particular Governours of all the Places from the *Cape of Good Hope* are called Commanders, I don't know if the Council of *Batavia* has the Nomination of them, or the Assembly of *Seventeen*; however I am certain that the Assembly nominates the Governour of the *Cape of Good Hope*.

The General and his Council chooses all the Commissioners, Merchants and Subaltern Officers; however, if any one is recommended by the Sharers, they take care to provide for him very well.



Besides the Council of State, at *Batavia*, there is a Council of Justice who are Supreme Judges of all Process Civil and Criminal, and have even the Power to try the Governour General, and condemn him to Death, if found guilty of Treason.

The *Dutch* Company, the better to carry on Trade in the *East-Indies*, to secure the Country and all Forts and Magazines or Store-houses they are in Possession of, in those Places, maintain a Hundred and Fourteen Vessels, from Thirty to Sixty Pieces of Cannon, and above Five and Twenty Thousand Men, Officers, Common Soldiers, and Seamen in their Pay.

The Company maintains in the *Indies* in all Twelve Thousand regular Troops, but in every Place where there is a *Dutch* Garrison, there are always great Numbers of the Natives capable of bearing Arms, which they always put in the Front when they go to Battle.

I have been informed that in these different Countries, the Company have, besides their regular Troops, above a Hundred Thousand Men able to carry Arms.

The Major General commands all the Troops under the Governour General, he is the Second Person in the *Indies*.

The Company in Time of War augment their Forces both by Sea and Land, and be-

sides their ordinary Vessels, can equip Fourty of the larger Sort; there are many Crowned Heads in *Europe* who would find it very difficult to do as much.

However all the great Power that this Famous Company has in the *Indies*, is nothing but the Result of the Industry of a small Number of Men, of about 60 Substantial and understanding Traders, firm and constant in their Undertakings, and who want nothing of being so many Sovereign Princes but their Independance on the States General: In other Respects this Famous Company is looked upon as absolute in *Holland*, and in all other Places nominates all Magistrates, Admirals, Generals, and all Governours; sends and receives Ambassadors to and from Kings and Sovereign Princes, makes Peace and War when ever it pleases, and by its own Authority administers Justice, institutes Officers to execute it absolutely in its own Name; punishes and pardons Crimes, gives Rewards and Presents worthy the Grandeur and Magnificence of Kings; establishes Colonies, builds Forts, levies Troops, maintains Armies and great Garrisons, fits out Fleets of Men of War, and coins Money.

It is easy to discover by this Account, that the *India* Trade must bring immense Treasures to the Company; besides the Dividend the Company makes every Year to the Sharers, it supplies those exorbitant Expences which it is obliged

obliged to make in the *Indies* and *Europe*, to pay all the Officers, Directors, Commissioners, Soldiers and Seamen; in building Fortifications, buying Ammunition for all Places, and an infinity of other Expences, for Building, Freighting and Victualling great Numbers of large and small Ships, for the Maintenance and Augmentation of its maritime Forces.

The Gains of the Company, more than their Expences and Disbursements, amount generally to three Millions of Gold every Year, including the Returns, all Freight paid, which comes to 15 or 16 Millions of Livres a Year, reckoning one with the other, amounting in the whole to 50 Millions of Livres.

The immense Gains of this Company, since their Establishment, excited the *French* in 1664 to undertake this Trade; but Experience has made them know, that what is proper for the *Dutch*, is not always convenient for other People: In short, this Trade that has gain'd them such vast Riches (being Masters of the Spiceries) can never be of advantage to any Country or People, who must employ ready Money in purchasing at very dear Rates, and at second Hand, such Commodities by which they get Twenty for One, or else take from them such Goods as are destructive to their own Manufactures.

This has actually been the Case of *France*; for when the King prohibited all painted *In-*

*dian* Stuffs to be worn in that Kingdom, they saw in a Moment their Manufactures of slight Woollen Stuffs recover their Credit.

The Gains of the Company would be much more considerable, if they were served in the *Indies* with an exact Fidelity; the Company is very well satisfied, and has no Reason to doubt, but that the greatest part of the Officers, of all Ranks, employed in that Service, and who have large Pensions and are well paid, do not scruple to raise themselves great Fortunes at the Company's cost: This is visible in those who return from the *Indies*, and who had any Management there, or Authority.

But how great soever the Distance between *Holland* and the *Indies* may be, yet is it not impossible to reform the greatest part of those Abuses the Officers commit in the *Indies*; but most of them being Relations or Friends, and often Creatures of the Directors, are generally incapable of the Employments they are put in, which is the reason they are not over severe in passing their Account; nay, some will have it, that the Directors themselves protect them, and often go Sharers with them.

The Officers of the Company that are in *Europe*, are no less attentive to enrich themselves; and I have been informed, that the Directors who are employ'd in buying Goods, and have the Inspection of all Vessels, or their Rigging,

Rigging and Provisions, or who are employ'd in managing any other Affair, find always Ways and Means considerably to augment their Salary and Fortune.

But nothing so much hinders the good OEconomy of the Company, as choosing Directors out of the Magistrates, when by their Establishment they were to be all Merchants or Tradesmen, without any Employment in the Publick, or more particular Government of the State; nevertheless, when there is a Director's Office vacant, the Magistrates are always intrieging for the Authority and Salary which they know are annexed to such Office.

Of the seventeen Places that the Town of *Amsterdam* has in disposal, there are twelve possessed by those Gentlemen, who having otherwise Employment enough, have not time to attend the Business of the Company, which requires a particular Application and Attention. The other Sharers have often complained of these Abuses, but without any Remedy.

I shall insert at the End of this Treatise, a curious Piece, which will give great Light into the *Dutch East-India Trade*.

It is a faithful Report of One, who commanded the Fleet from the *Indies* in the Year 1688, which he made to the States-General,



touching the Posture of the Company's Affairs in the *Indies*.

I am principally moved to make this secret and important Piece publick, to justify, in some Measure, what I have said in Relation to the *Indian Trade* (if any one doubt of the Truth of it,) tho' the *Dutch* take all imaginable Care to hide and keep secret every thing that relates to their Trade in the *Indies*, and which passes with them for a Secret of State.

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## CHAP. XV.

*Of the Trade of the Dutch Company in the West-Indies.*

**A**FTER having spoken of the Trade the *Dutch* have in the *East-Indies*, I shall finish this Treatise of Commerce with what Trade the *Indian Company* have on the Western Coast of *America* and other Places.

The *Portugueze* were Masters of all the Trade of these Coasts, and all the neighbouring Islands, by reason of the Forts they caused to be built there, after they had made a Discovery of that Country, in finding out a Passage to the *East-Indies*.

*Philip* the Second, as I observed before, coming to the Crown of *Portugal*, and having

in some manner forbidden that State, as well as *Spain*, trading with the *Dutch*, the greater Part of the most substantial Merchants, who saw themselves out of Employment by this Prohibition, resolved to go and trade upon the Coasts of *Africa* and *America*, and the neighbouring Islands.

The Village of *Moure*, on the Golden Coast, was the first Place the *Dutch* had leave to trade in; and they knew so well how to manage that Advantage, that in a very little time that Village became a Place very considerable for Traffick; the *Africans*, who agreed better with these new Traders than with the *Portuguese*, flocked thither from all Parts.

The *Dutch* Trade at length encreased so considerably all along the Coast of *Guinea*, that before the Truce of the Year 1609, it employ'd above 20 large Vessels, besides above 100 of smaller Burthen, that were constantly employ'd in the Trade of *Cape Verde* and the Coasts of *America*.

The *Portuguese* not being able to suffer that any one should partake of this Trade besides themselves, forgot nothing that might exclude the *Dutch*, even to put a Price upon their Heads.

They, on the other Hand, to secure themselves from these Persecutions of the *Portuguese*, in the Year 1612, built, with Leave of the King of *Saõ*, a Fort near the Village  
*Moure*,

*Moure*, call'd *Fort Nassau*; and since that, their Trade went on with great Security and Quiet.

Some finall time after their *East-India* Company was settled, having a great deal of Money and Seamen unemploy'd, they began to talk of trading to the *West-Indies*; which Discourse was occasioned by the *Memoirs* of a certain Merchant, whose Name was *John Fles-singuen*, presented to the States-General, who were divided in their Opinions thereupon: But those who wished for Peace, believing that an Establishment of the *Dutch* in *America* would raise invincible Obstacles, hinder'd the Execution of that Project.

The Truce of twelve Years, which they made with *Spain* in the Year 1609, expiring in the Year 1621, they began to revive that Project; and the States-General having approved it, they regulated every thing that might any wise have relation to the Establishment of the New *West-India* Company, in hopes that their Republick might reap no less Benefit and Advantage by this, than they had by the *East-India* Company; and all these Regulations were made and resolved upon the 20th Day of *June*, in the same Year 1621.

This New General Company, which was set up on the Plan of that of the *East-Indies*, was composed of several particular Companies, that traded on the Coasts of *Africa* and *America*.

And

And there were several Subjects of *Spain* that entered into the Company under borrow'd Names.

The Funds of this Company were 7200000 Livres, and none but the Company, exclusive of all the rest of the Subjects of the Republick, could, during the space of 24 Years, trade on the Coasts of *Africa*, from the Tropick of *Cancer* to the *Cape of Good Hope*; and thro' all *America*, from the Streights of *Magellan* to *Newfoundland*.

All the Members of this Company were divided into five Chambers, out of which were chosen nineteen Persons, to compose a Council to decide all Controversies and Matters of the greatest Importance.

The Progress this New Company made, was so considerable, that the States-General entertain'd great Hopes to make themselves Masters of all the South Part of *America*. In short, after thirteen Years War, that Company saw themselves Masters of *Brazil*, the Provinces of *Fernambouc*, *Tamarica*, *Pariba* and *Rio-grande*, and there settled a vast Trade, to the great Loss and Detriment of the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese*.

It appears by the Registers of the Company, that from the Year 1623, to the Year 1636, they had put to Sea 800 Vessels on Account of War and Trade, the Charge and Expence of which amounted to 45000000 of *Gulders*,  
only

only for the Shipping, the Rigging and other necessary Furniture and Provisions, and that they had taken from their Enemies 545 Vessels which they valued at 60 Millions, and the other Plunder, amounted to above 30 Millions.

That *Peter Hem* had taken near the *Havana* the *Peru* Fleet, aboard which he found Seven Millions of Silver, besides other Goods, Cannon and Stores which amounted to above Ten Millions, and that the Losses the Enemy sustained and of which the Company could make no Advantage, came to above 35 Millions; one of their most considerable Losses was that occasioned by *Monfieur C. Hermite* on the Coasts of *Peru*; where he destroyed in the Port of *Lima* a Fleet of 30 Men of War.

In the Year 1636, the Directors of the Company judging it proper to send to *Brazil* a Person of Reputation to reside there, chose the Count of *Nassau* to whom they gave the same Power and Authority as to the Governour General of the *East-Indies*.

During the 8 Years of his Government, he added to the Conquests of the Company those of *Siara*, *Sirigi*, and *Maragan*: 14 Provinces in *Brazil*, the Company possessed themselves of Seven.

The Company likewise made themselves Masters of the Fort *St. George de las Minas*, the Town of *St. Paul de la Conde*, and the Island of *St. Thomas* on the Coast of *Africa*.



In the Year 1640 they destroyed in Four Battles successively the Enemies Fleet, consisting of Fourscore and Thirteen Men of War, which had on Board 1200 Mariners.

You see what the Purse of these Merchants has effected in *Africa* and *America*.

The Truce which the States General in the Year 1641, concluded with the *Portugueze* who had withdrawn themselves from under the *Spanish* Government towards the End of the Year 1640, stopt the Progress of the Company which in some Measure was the cause of their Ruine; for seeing all Things in Peace, they recalled their Governour General into *Europe* in the Year 1644, and remitted all Power and Authority into the Hands of Three People, viz. the *Sieur de Hamet* at *Amsterdam*, *De Basis* a Goldsmith at *Harlem*, and *Bullestrat* a Carpenter of *Middlebourg*; Men whose Heads were wonderfully well turned for trading, but very ill for Politicks as the Event clearly made it appear. These good Men who thought of nothing else but how to encrease their Riches and make Commerce flourish, sold Arms and Gunpowder to the *Portugueze*, on Account of those extravagant Prices they gave, and let the Fortifications of their strongest Places fall to ruine, neglected furnishing them with Ammunition and Arms, and permitted the Soldiers when ever they pleased to come into *Europe*;

MEMOIRS of the  
on Purpose to lessen the Expence of their Gar-  
risons.

This ill Conduct and Negligence gave Oc-  
casion to the *Portugueze* to retake from the  
*Dutch* all they had in *Brazil*, by renewing  
the War.

At last this War came to an End the Six-  
teenth Day of *August* 1661, by the Mediation  
of the King of *England*, who was to marry  
the *Infanta* of *Portugal*.

By this Treaty the *Dutch* Company entire-  
ly quitted all their Pretensions to *Brazil* for a  
good round Sum the *Portugueze* gave them,  
with Liberty that they might trade as Friends  
on the Coasts of *Brazil*, in the Ports of *Por-  
tugal* and their Dependencies, and on Condi-  
tion that the *Portugueze* would regulate the Price  
of Salt.

There remained at that time to the Compa-  
ny, only the Forts they had on the Golden  
Coast and *Cape Verde*, for the *Portugueze* had  
retaken the Island of *St. Thomas*, the Towns of  
*St. Salvador* and *St. Paul*, the Islands of *Cura-  
zao* and *Tabaco*, and the new Country between  
*Virginia* and *New-England* which was found  
out after the Loss of *Brazil*.

The extraordinary Expence the Company  
were at in the last *Brazil* War, drained them  
to that Degree, that they who before equalled  
the *East-India* Company, were reduced to such  
a Condition, that they could not pay Six Mil-  
lions

lions of Guilders, or somewhat more, they had Occasion to borrow upon Interest.

The States General to preserve the Trade of the *African* Coasts and the Places they there were in Possession of, in the Year 1674 formed a new Company composed of the Old Partners or Sharers and their Creditors, the Methods they took and concerted pleas'd both Parties, and this second Company having got a Fund of about Six Millions of Guilders, kept up very well their Trade and Commerce, and got very considerable Sums.

I shall give you here some little Idea of their Trade and wherein it chiefly consists.

Of all the Nations in *Europe*, the *Dutch* are those who constantly have had the greatest Trade on the Coasts of *Africa*, they have there two principal Establishments, one at *Cape Verde*, and the other on the Golden Coast in *Guinea*.

In the little Island of *Goree* near *Cape Verde*, they have the Forts of *Gor* and *Nassau*, where there is a very good Road and excellent Bay; this Port is of great Use and Advantage to them in the Trade to *Cape Verde* which is very considerable, but the Establishment on the Golden Coast is of much more Consequence, their Trade there being now more considerable and rich.

The two strongest Forts, are Fort *St George de las Minas* and Fort *Nassau*, which are but 4 Leagues distant from each other.

The rest are the Forts of *Achem*, *Danubo*, *Acaro*, *Sama* and *Bouten*.

They Trade likewise to other Countries lying along and beyond the Golden Coast, viz.

The Kingdoms of *Arden*, *Benin*, *Congo* and *Angola*.

The chief Commodities are, Gold, Ivory, Slaves, Leather, Gums &c.

Gold is found almost every where on the Coast between Fort *d'Arquin* near the White Cape (belonging still to the *Dutch*) and the Golden Coast. The Inhabitants get some in their own Country, and some from the Neighbouring Provinces of *Africa*, but there is no Place in all the West where there are so many and such rich Mines as on the Golden Coast, so called, by reason of the vast Quantities of the finest Gold that is there produced, this Country being an inexhaustable Treasury.

These are the Golden Mines which made the Nations of *Europe* establish themselves in those Climates, by Means or Favour of the several Forts they have caused there to be built, as the *Portuguese* who were the first discoverers, the *English*, *Germans*, *French*, *Swedes*, *Danes*, and *Dutch*.

The

The Gold furnished by the Negroes with, is in Ingots, Bracelets, Beads, and other Toys, or else in Dust; their Ability to counterfeit and falsifie Gold is so great, that they know how to gild tho' in Dust, and frequently gild over small Pieces of Copper; and that so curiously that it is impossible not to be cheated, unless you stand very much upon your Guard.

The Trade for Slaves is undoubtedly one of the most considerable that the Merchants of *Europe* can make on these Coasts, their different Degrees in goodness make the difference in their Price; those of *Angola* are look'd-upon to be the strongest, this Trade is the more considerable and important, because without these Slaves 'tis impossible all over *America* and the Islands to do any thing in the Mines, or to manure the Ground, make Sugar and Tobacco.

The *Dutch* are the only People that deal in Negroes, the *English* I believe do not concern themselves about that Part of Commerce, the *French* very little, and the *Portuguese* buy none but for their Colonies in *Brazil* and their other Dominions in the *Indies*.

The *Spaniards* are the People the *Dutch* furnish with these Slaves, and they have entred into several Treaties with one another for that very Purpose to settle the Number they ought to be furnished with, their Price and the Places where they ought to be delivered, which generally are *St. George de las Minas*, and on

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the



194 MEMOIRS of the  
the Coasts of *Guinea*, or in the Island of *Cu-  
razao*, near the Town of *Cartagena* in *A-  
merica*.

The Article of Ox and Cow-hides, or Lea-  
ther, is very considerable at *Cape Verde*, all  
along that Coast to the River *Gambia*.

Besides these Commodities, there is likewise  
brought a great deal of Wax from *Cape Verde*  
and *Sierra-Lione*, and other Countries on that  
Coast ; as also Gum-Arabick for Dying, and  
Ostrich Feathers.

Next to the *Dutch*, the *English* are the  
greatest Traders on these Coasts.

All those different sorts of Commodities that  
are brought to the Negroes, do not sell indif-  
ferently alike ; some are proper only for *Capa  
Verde*, others for the Golden Coast, and o-  
thers again for *Arden* and *Angola*, and the  
Merchants sort them accordingly.

But it is generally said that the best Com-  
modities, and most gainful to be carried to  
those Coasts, are, Rock-Chrystal, Coral and  
Lace, but especially Brandies.

All the Inhabitants of the Coast of *Guinea*  
consume great Quantities of Linnen Cloth  
half worn, which they think much more con-  
venient than the Callicoes of their own Coun-  
try, as keeping the Body more cool ; and the  
*Dutch* supply them with great Quantities at  
very high Rates.

The *Dutch* Company are yet in Possession of some of the Islands; as, *Curazao*, *Tataco*, *Buenos Aires*, *Doruba*, and *St. Martin*, but in Partnership with the *French*.

The two first of these are the most considerable, as having each of them a Fort, and *Curazao* a good Harbour: The Trade of which Island consists in the Commodities of the Growth of the Place, as Sugars, Wool, Ox and Cow-Hides.

The Inhabitants of *Curazao* trade with the *Spaniards* in *America*, as I before observed, which makes that Island of great Importance to the *Dutch*.

I believe the other *Dutch* Colonies in *America* have no great Matter of Commerce; and if I am not much deceived, the Fort of *Surinam* does not belong to the Company, tho' I believe they would willingly buy it, but the Sharers of *Zealand* would never consent to it; but be that how it will, the *Dutch* have been Masters of it ever since the *English* delivered it up to them by the Treaty of *Breda*.

This Colony is very small, the Inhabitants not daring to Manure and Till the Ground out of Cannon-reach, for the wild *Indians* give them no Quarter, because they hang'd their Brother *Indians*; and, it must be own'd, without much Reason or Justice.

I shall end this Treatise with

A true Report made to the States General, by Daniel Braems, (Book-keeper General in Batavia, who commanded the last Fleet that came into Europe from the Indies,) concerning the true State of Affairs of the East-India Company, at his departure with the said Fleet, viz.

Most High and Mighty Lords,

**A** long and troublesome Sickness which I have laboured under, has hinder'd me, till now, of having the Honour of appearing before your High Mightinesses to pay my Duty, in giving you in Writing, with a due Respect, a faithful Report of the State and Condition the General Company of the United Provinces in the Indies was in at the time I came from thence, which was on the 19th Day of November, in the Year 1686, when I left, I thank Heaven, the Affairs of that illustrious and flourishing Company in as good a Condition as they could desire.

To represent to your High Mightinesses more particularly the vast Extent of their Dominions, and the great Trade the India Company has in these Parts, I shall observe that Order which an Affair of this Nature requires. It is necessary I speak of every Place in Particular, and that I lay before your High Mightinesses, the principal Affairs, in which, I think, consists the Advancement and Preservation of the strong  
and

*and important Provinces of the East, which certainly are the most beautiful, the richest, and most gainful Conquests of the whole Indies.*

I shall begin first with

## B A N D A.

The long Possession the Company has had of this Place, I don't doubt has given your High-Mightinesses (by several Accounts transmitted to you) a clear Idea and Knowledge of its Situation and Extent; so that I believe it will be needless to give those Particulars here: I shall, however, say, that it is a Place where the Company has almost none, or very little Trade by Sale of Stuffs and other Goods, and I believe never may have, the Country being small and slenderly Peopled, so that the Vent here is very inconsiderable; and as to the free Navigation, which is the only Thing that can bring any Benefit to it, it cannot by any means be granted them, but ought to be absolutely forbidden them, on account of the Frauds they are there daily guilty of.

This Island produces now no more what is necessary for Life, so that they are forced to send to that Place, every Year, from *Batavia*, great Quantities of Provisions and Necessaries; which, according to my Opinion, ought to be considered as a Thing contributing most to se-



cure the Possession of that Island; it being certain, that if any Enemy should take it by surprize, or otherwise, as it might please God to permit, they would soon find themselves unprovided of all Necessaries of Life, and consequently be forced to leave it, unless they could constantly furnish the Island with sufficient Supplies.

Any one may see by this true Account, what Advantage the Company can have in trading to this Island; and if the Company exports some few Commodities from some small Farms, yet all that will not near answer the Charges they are oblig'd to be at, to keep up and repair the Works; and these Expences amount every Year to very considerable Sums.

But then if you put in Balance with these Expences, the great Profit that the Mace and Nutmegs which the Company transports thence to *Europe*, and even to other Parts of the *Indies*, the Thing will have another Face, and show how important and advantageous that Conquest is to the Company.

The last Shipping that were sent thither, according to the yearly Custom, to carry necessary Provisions, and bring thence Spices, had a very happy and successful Voyage, and return'd, at several times, to the Harbour of *Batavia*, with a reasonable Lading of Mace and Nutmegs.



The Advice we had from time to time, assur'd us, that the Affairs of the Company continued to be in a very good and quiet Condition, and that the Spices grew as well as they could wish; but then those same Advices brought an Account, that they had several Earthquakes, which threw down and damag'd many Houses, and to which these Islands, by their mountainous Situation, lye exposed.

The nearest place to *Banda*, is

## A M B O I N A.

This Place was formerly taken from the *Portugueze* by our People, and we have the Propriety of it to this Day, which makes the Company the only Masters of the Cloves, that are every Year gathered in this Island, and which are delivered to the Company at a certain fixed Price; and the Company are oblig'd to take the whole Crop, how great soever it be; whence it often happens, that Company is supplied with much more than they can have vent for; by which it appears, that this Island produces more Cloves than can be sold or consumed the whole World over; and 'tis for this Reason that it is now thought no longer necessary to oblige the *Indians* of *Amboina* to plant a certain Number of young Trees every Year, as heretofore they were want to do; and that Custom has been laid aside for many Years.

It appears by the last Letters that came from thence, that the Company's Ships arrived safely at that Place; and that there Peace and Tranquillity reigned, that the Islanders indeed had received some Damage by Fires, at several times, but that they had given Orders for the future, to prevent the like Inconveniences.

This Island and its Fort are very much more exposed to Attacks, than *Banda*, not only on Account of its Extent, but also because there are above threescore Thousand Men, besides Piracies, and other Inconveniences, which they are almost continually exposed to from the neighbouring Islands: so that according to my Judgment, I should think it absolutely necessary to provide very soon, and that too with the greatest Caution, the Peace and Quiet of of this little Province, and its Inhabitants, as one of the most important Possessions the Company has in the *Indies*.

*Batavia* is obliged to furnish this Country with Necessaries for Subsistence of Life, in the same manner as the Island of *Banda*; for the Inhabitants are so lazy, it is almost impossible to make them plow; and as there is but a very little Trade there for Linen, and and other Clothing, the Expences the Company are at to support them, amount to much more than the Gain they can make by the Sale of such Commodities in that Island; but then the Vent they have for their Cloves, which

is

is very great, overpays that Charge with vast Advantage, the Profits accruing thereby being six times more than the Expence of supporting that Province amounts to.

The third Government of the Company in in the East *Indies*, is

## T E R N A T E.

This Place must be considered no otherwise than as a Frontier Town of the principal Government beforementioned, the Company being obliged to pay the King, and the chief Lords of his Court, a certain Sum in Recompence for having heretofore consented, that all the Clove Trees in their Dominions should be plucked up.

By the last Advices from *Batavia*, and by the verbal Report of the *Sieur Lobs*, who was Governour, we were informed, that our People lived quietly, and in good Understanding with the Natives, and that the Conduct of the King since the Company had so graciously restored him to his Throne, was as they could wish.

There were great Complaints made, that some Servants of the Company were much wanting in their Fidelity, that they were very negligent, and unqualified for their several Employments, which was very prejudicial to the Company. This is a Distemper which has  
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some time since infected almost all the Dominions of the Company in the *Indies*, and the Consequences will be very fatal, if they do not take proper Measures to remedy these continued Abuses; for Fidelity and Diligence in Servants, joined with Experience, and a certain Knowledge of Management of Affairs, are, after the Blessing of God, the principal Pillars of this great Edifice of Trade; they ought therefore to be maintained and encouraged, as much as possible, to bring Commerce to its utmost Height, which cannot otherwise ever possibly be effected.

There is a great Consumption in this Government, of coarse Linnen; but the Profits arising thereby, and other Incomes, are not any ways proportioned to the Charge the Company are at: The Returns are hardly worth mentioning. The Tortoise Shell of this Place is as good a Commodity as can be desired, and very profitable; but the Quantities are so very small, that the two Companies, and their Servants do not find their Account in it; and it is much the same with

### M A C A S S A R.

In this Place the Company has a good Fort well supplied with Ammunition, and of great Strength, and keeps there a good Garrison, which is very necessary to awe those hardy  
and

and warlike People, and hinder them from attacking us at unawares, and driving us out of the Country. The Reasons that engaged the Company to make War against the *Macassarians*, was the greatness of the Kings of that Country, their Power which encreased daily, and their underhand Workings against the Company's Interest; insomuch that they were in perpetual Anxiety how to preserve their Possessions in those Kingdoms: And as the frequent Murders and Robberies that Nation committed, as well on the Officers and Servants of the Company, as their Friends and Allies, gave them more than sufficient Provocation to take up Arms against those People; so the Company were not backward to send a strong Power against them, and the Undertaking proved so successful, that that Nation which was once so powerful, was conquered, and forced to accept of Peace from the Company on such Conditions as they would give them; and by this means the Fort was secured, and that Possession, together with the Change of the Government of *Macassar*, has put that Nation entirely out of Condition to undertake any thing against the Company, so that they are very easy on that Point.

If the Directors, and proper Servants of the Company, had not been negligent in keeping the Balance of Power, which was very prudently and opportunely put into their Hands,  
by



by the Division of Territories, and by the Establishment of *Radia Polacha*, who is now become so powerful by that Negligence of the Servants of the Company, that at present they have reason to distrust, and be afraid of him.

In this Island there is a considerable Trade for Linen, and other Goods; and it is certain, if the Company could engross the whole Trade of that Country, exclusive of all other Traders (amongst which may be reckoned the Commissaries themselves) the Gains they would then have, would be more than sufficient to defray the Expences they are every Year obliged to bear, and which, at present, are more than the Profits, including the Income of the Corn the Company caused to be sown there.

### T I M O R.

We have here a Castle, but small, and of little Consequence; however, it is well situated for the Company's Trade, which yet is not sufficient to supply the Store-house they have caused to be here set up: They keep it for the Convenience of selling of Slaves notwithstanding, and on Account of the Sandal Wood that grows here, which is a Commodity that has a good Vent, and managed with as much Ease as Advantage, both in *China*, and other Parts of the *Indies*; but the Company

pany who long since obtained the Liberty of Trading in this vast Kingdom (as it now appears) made much more Advantage of it than they do at present.

But however, if the Profit does but balance the Expence that the Company is at, and the Inconveniences they are continually subject to from the People of these Islands, they have reason to be very well satisfied, and I shall say no more, lest I may say too much.

But now to come to the Store-houses or Magazines of the North Parts of *India*; and first I shall take Notice of

### *S I A M.*

This is a Country of a large Extent, and well inhabited. Our People live in the capital City, where there are very few Commissaries, and those most of them employed in Writing to take care of the Trade, which consists principally in Deer Skins brought hither from *Japan* to be sold, and in Tin, which the Company causes to be bought at *Ligor*, having obtained that Privilege, exclusive of all other Traders, and which afterwards is sold in different Parts of the *Indies*, as well as *Europe*, with great Ease and Advantage. The Callicoes from *Coromandel* go off soon in this Kingdom, and the Company brings thither very little else. The Reason chiefly is, the Carri-

Carriage of these Callicoes into this Kingdom, which is made by the free Trade and Communication the Moors of *Coromandel* have with those of *Siam*, to whom they bring these Goods, and sell them very cheap to the People of *Siam*, who have them by these means at the first Hand, and this makes the Commissaries of the Company sell them at the same Price as the Moors; so that it must not be expected we shall drive on any considerable Trade in *Siam*: However, the Magazine there is of much Use and Advantage to the Company, and it was on that Account they were resolved to give all possible Satisfaction to the Ambassador the King of *Siam*, sent expressly to *Batavia*, to determine some Disputes, who was afterwards sent back very well satisfied, in one of the Company's Ships. In a Voyage made some Years ago according to Custom, the Company lost one large Ship, called, *The William Henry*, which struck on the North of the Isle of *Bavea* on a Rock, and sunk the next Day to the Bottom; but by good Fortune, all the Cargo was saved, and brought up the River *Palinbourg*, in Shalloops.

The Company's Affairs, at the time of my coming away from the *Indies*, were in a very good Condition, and in that Kingdom the *Walstroon* had made a very good Return in Skins, and other Goods, according to yearly Custom.

## J A P A N.

Is a Country well known in the World for its Riches, and the fine Works of its Inhabitants, wherefore I shall say nothing here but what immediately concerns the Affairs of the Company, who only have the Liberty to trade thither, exclusive of all other Nations.

We are in Possession of a little Island in that Country, joining to the Town of *Mangazaqui*, by a Bridge of Communication; but none of our People can go into that Town, so mistrustful and jealous is that Nation; insomuch that we are entirely deprived of all Communication and Society with the *Japonese*, being obliged to make use of Truckmen, or Brokers, who have the Privilege to act, go, and come; which, in my Judgment, is very disagreeable, and prejudicial to the great Trade we at present drive with that Nation, and which makes me believe, that this Practice occasioned these Truckmen, or Interpreters, and the Governour of *Mangazaqui*, to monopolize all the Trade, by taxing, (as they have some Years past) all Goods, as they pleased, for their own Interest and Profit, and the great Prejudice of the Company.

They took away from us all means of securing our selves from the like Violences by our just Complaints, which the Regency of

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*Batavia* judged proper to be laid before the Emperor, in a very respectful Letter, and which was favourably received, and met with good Success, and we had our ancient Liberties restored to us of selling our Effects and Commodities to the best Bidder; but some little time after, they laid a new Tax upon us worse than the first; that is, they limited our Trade with them to that Degree, that we should deal with them for no more than what only would amount to a certain Sum, and that certain Sum was fixed to three Hundred Thousand Failes a Year, which cannot any ways be sufficient to procure us so much Profit only, as is absolutely necessary to defray the great Expences, and other Charges that the Magazine, or Bank of the Company is obliged to be at, for those large Presents they must give for Maintenance of their Shipping, and the Officers of the Company; besides the Dangers they must meet with in passing such a vast and tempestuous Ocean, before they can arrive at that Kingdom, which is the remotest of all the *Indies*.

Many are of Opinion, that this Limitation of Commerce was principally intended to disgust the *Chinese*, who came about that time into *Japan*, with great Numbers of small Vessels full of People, amongst whom were several *Tartars* that had a warlike Countenance, which created in the *Japonesse* sufficient Distrust and

Suspi-



Suspicion. They were afraid, that the *Tartars* who had been a long while before Masters of all *China*, and by that means, in a Condition of undertaking great Conquests, had formed some Design against their Country, on Account of its happy Climate, and fine Situation; and that they had an Intention to land a great Number of Men, under Pretence of trading with them. To prevent these Inconveniences, without letting any one know what were their Views and Motives, the *Japanese* made this *hard* Regulation, which they notified accordingly to the *Chinese*, that they might not for the time to come, bring into *Japan*, a greater Quantity of Goods than they ought, and only to the Value of the Sum regulated: And the better to hide this real Motive of theirs from the *Chinese*, and that they should not think this Prohibition was directly levelled at them, they included *us* likewise, tho' they gave *us* verbal Promises, that it should only be for a while, which we very much hope for, otherwise the Company will not be able, without a vast Prejudice to themselves, to continue their Commerce with the *Japanese*, which would be more expensive than gainful.

Some time after our Departure from *Batavia*, and while we lay off *Bantam* with the Fleet, the Vessel that was bound for *Batavia*, came into the Road, and the others have set Sail for *Malacca*, according to Custom. We

knew that all those Vessels had made (God be thanked) a very happy Voyage ; and that the Company had got a good Price for all the Cargoes, which, notwithstanding, would not produce any considerable Gain, as long as that Limitation should subsist.

## CHINA,

Where our Ambassador lately arrived, and set out for the Imperial Court of *Pekin*, to desire that great Emperour's Leave to trade thither, few People doubting of Success, there having been a Report spread abroad, that the Emperour seeing himself, at that time, Lord of all *China*, and in quiet Possession of those vast Territories, had a Design to make Trade flourish in his Dominions ; and to accomplish it, had permitted, not only his Subjects to trade out of their own Country, but all foreign Merchants to come and establish themselves in his maritime Towns, the Truth of which Time only will discover.

It is very certain, that the *English* drive a very considerable Trade with *China*, or rather with the Islands of *Macar* ; and had the Company this Liberty, they would have a great many Competitors of all Nations in Trade, which would very much lessen their Profit and Gain.

Our

Our People have also made Voyages several Years ago, to the Islands of *Macar*, where they traded in private with the *Chinese*, but it never came to much, while the *English* and *Portuguese* find means to make considerable Returns; for which Reason we made no Voyages this last Season, to those Islands, but sent our Shipping directly to *Chockzien*. These Vessels were only four in Number, but were laden with Commodities of a considerable Value to trade with, under Colour of going to bring back our Ambassador, who, at his Arrival in those Parts, knew how to put off the Goods he brought with him, much better than the Merchants could do at the Isle of *Macar*. It is certain, that the *Portuguese* who bought Pepper at *Batavia*, to trade with in *China*, paid much dearer than our People could sell it for in the very Islands.

One may see by that, and by many other Sales, that the Company is very ill served in those Parts.

## T O N Q U I N,

Is a Place where the Company has some Footing, but of very little Consequence, for since as their Ministers were some Years ago recalled, Trade has but indifferent Success in that Country, and not sufficient to answer Charges; so that all they send thither,

is but one Vessel only at present, which brings them a certain Quantity of Musk, for which they pay ready Money.

This same Vessel goes likewise to

## M A L A C A,

Which is a Town belonging to the Company, and was taken from the *Portugueze*. This Place is very considerable, and much frequented for Traffick, and is the Magazine of the Eastern Trade, where all Nations, who have frequented the Seas, met heretofore. At present, its Trade is not near so considerable, not sufficient to answer the Charge; which Inconveniency might be remedied, by sending thither a good Director; for it is certain, that there is a good Vent in that Town for great Quantities of Linnen Cloth, of all sorts, as well as in many other Towns, its Dependencies, or which lye round about it; as *Andragieri*, and other Towns, and such Places as lye along the Rivers of *Sierra*, *Perra*, &c. where for the most Part the Payments are made in Gold and Tin, which is a Return very rich; necessary, and profitable for the Good and Support of the Trade of the Company. *Malaca* is the Rendezvous of all the Vessels that return from *Japan* every Year with their Cargoes, and which they there sort and distribute, in order to their being sent to  
the

the other Store-houses on the Coast of *India*, *Coromandel*, *Bengal*, &c.

The last Advices from *Malaca* tell us, that they lived there in Peace, and had a good Understanding with the neighbouring Kings and Princes. They have made Governour of that Place *Monsieur Flechier*, who, in the Month of *October* 1619, went thither with strict Commission, to take an exact Account of all Misdemeanours committed by any Ministers, Officers, and Commissioners of the Company, and punish them according to the Severity and Rigour of the Law.

Over against this Island lyes the Island of

## S U M A T R A;

In which Place are the Store-houses of *Palinbourg* and *Jambi*, the former of which furnishes every Year a considerable Quantity of Pepper, which they trade with on Account of the Company, according to the Contract made with the King of the Country. The Payment for Pepper is made in Linnens, which has powerfully engaged the Company to preserve this Trade, as very advantageous to them, and obliged them to assist that Prince against his Enemies, as some Years ago they did with very good Success, which gained them such Respect with the neighbouring Powers, that tho' that Kingdom has been often threatned by fe-



ral Princes round about, yet no one dar'd to invade it, which makes the Company enjoy a very quiet and advantageous Trade. But as for *Jambi*, there is scarce any thing to do there: A small Number of Commissaries and Servants live there, whose Business chiefly is to hinder the ill Designs of the King of *Jambi*, and the Pyracies and Robberies which are often committed on the West of the Island of *Sumatra*, where the Company is in Possession of a vast Tract of Land; and the Places of their Habitation are comprehended under, and known by the Name of *Wescoust*, where there are also several Storehouses; the Capital City is

## P A D A N G U E.

Here is a very great Trade, and a good vent for Salt and several sorts of Linnen; and the Returns consist in Gold Ore, Pepper, Camphire, Benzoin, and other valuable Commodities, which are very proper for the Trade of the Company, and of which they dispose vast Quantities in the *Indies*.

'Tis a great Prejudice to the Company, to be so ill served as they have been some Years since in this Place, insomuch that the Company was forced, in a very little time, to send from *Batavia* three Superintendents, or Directors,

rectors, one after another, and recall'd them to justify their Conduct.

It is certain, if Matters were but rightly manag'd, as the Interest of the Company requires, those Places would become more profitable and considerable than they are, and I may say, that if the Conduct and OEconomy of those, who have the Direction of Affairs, were more regular, the exorbitant Charges, and frequent Frauds, would not swallow up the great Profits that may be made of the Gold Ore that is given in Payment.

I agree, that some Years since our People were very much troubled and molested by the Natives of the Country, on Account of the *English*, who struggled to make themselves Masters of the Pepper Trade, had it been possible, having to that End stirred up several in Alliance with the Company, who therefore found themselves oblig'd to take up Arms, and punish the *Indians* for breaking their Alliance, which they accordingly did, and with very good Success; so that Attempt of the *English* came to very little or nothing, tho' it was very expensive and chargeable to the Company.

From this Trade I shall come to that of the Kingdom of

## B E N G A L.

This Kingdom is a Country of the *Indies* on the *Terra Firma*, and the Company have here several Storehouses to carry on their Trade, which consists chiefly in selling Spices, Copper, Tin, Lead, Quicksilver, and other Things, which they sell at a great Advantage ; but yet in continual Danger to be molested by the *Moors* in Power, whose Avarice is so exorbitant, that it costs the Company every Year, to keep them in Temper, vast Sums of Money in Presents, which are sent privately to them, as the only Remedy against this dangerous Evil, since the Company's Interest is to live in Peace, and not break with a People, from whom they gain such considerable Advantages in Trade, which they would run the hazard of losing, should they take up Arms to maintain the Liberties and Privileges of Commerce ; and which would not always square with the Interest of the Company ; and therefore, as long as the *Moors* of *Bengal* shall not exact more than what is usual to give them, 'twill be better to let things rest as they are : This Method to me seems the most secure and certain, for the Benefit and Advantage of the Company.

By the last Advices from *Bengal*, before we left the *Indies*, we heard that the Fleet  
called

called *Strion*, coming from *Malacca*, and which had on Board Monsieur *Nicholas St. Kayen*, Councillor Extraordinary, and new Director in the Streights of *Bengal*, run aground (tho' in pretty fair Weather) on the Shoals of *Isagli*, near the Mouth of the River, and was actually lost on the Sands by the strong Seas; the Men were saved with great Difficulty, and 200 Chests of Silver; but the Copper, with which the Ships were laden, worth 90000 Gulders, sunk to the Bottom, and was all lost.

Monsieur *Wanrek*, Lord of *Midrech*, Commissioner for Trade, has given very good Orders in that Country, and reformed a great many Abuses and bad Customs, being well acquainted with the ill Conduct of the Commissaries in their several Employments, and has dismissed several in this Country, as well as *Batavia*, to justify their Conduct; and it is certain, that the redressing these Abuses would have been attended with many others, had not that Lord been a little short in providing proper Persons to fill up these Vacancies.

## C O R O M A N D E L.

The *Sieur Wanrek* was to go in the Month of *May* 1695 to *Coromandel*, to pursue the Execution of his Commission. *Coromandel* is very near *Bengal*, and where the Company have

have Affairs of highest Importance ; for, besides the Town of *Negapatam*, situated on the South-side of *Coromandel*, which our People took from the *Portugueze*, the Company has in Possession the Fort of *Guedria* ( where the Governour resides ) and the Storehouses or Magazines of *Guenapatam*, *Sadrespattam*, *Mallispattam*, *Pelicol*, *Datskorom*, *Beulispattam*, *Nagurnantie* and *Golconda*, for the Advancement of Trade in those several Places, which consists chiefly in Callicoes ; as also in the Sale of several Commodities our People bring into those Parts, as Spices, *Japan* Copper, Tin, Gold Ore, and the like. This Trade is extremely profitable and advantageous, but yet exposed to the Violence of the *Moors* that are in Power ; for the Governments of these Countries are almost always farmed ; and these Farmers being protected by the Ministry, take all Opportunities to extort Money from the Subjects ; insomuch that Foreign Dealers can never secure themselves from being pillaged by these Farmers, who are very covetous ; and therefore to avoid being disturbed in their Traffick, are forced to skreen themselves from these Evils by Presents, which costs the Company very dear. But these Evils are unhappily much augmented since about four Years ago, and arrived to that Excess, as obliged the Company to take up Arms, and seize upon the Town of *Mazulipattam*, to force the King of  
*Golconda*



*Golconda* to give them just Satisfaction for the Violence and Injuries done the Company, which in the End came to a very good Issue.

The Occasion of this Difference was thus : The Resident of the Company in *Golconda*, which is the City where the King resides, became Security for a certain Pagan Merchant, for the Value of a Million of Livres, without having any Order or Power to do so, and which was done without doubt in View of some considerable Interest and Advantage ; the First Minister of the Kingdom, who was also a Pagan of the Race of *Brammer*, took this Opportunity to make his Market ; imprison'd the Merchant, and seiz'd on all his Effects, under Pretence that he was indebted to the King in vast Sums of Money : Our People saw very well how ill-grounded this Pretence was, and represented accordingly the Agreement made with the Company, that no Merchant whom the Company dealt with should be molested, either in his Person or Goods, and that the Company were not previously satisfied their Demands they had on those Merchants ; but all signified nothing, and they were obliged to take up Arms ; and Matters were carried so far, that the King engaged himself to pay this Debt out of his own Revenues ; and thus the Company obtained by Force that Satisfaction they were denied, and freed themselves in a little time from a long War

War which was very expensive, and would have been very prejudicial to them, by interrupting their Commerce with this Nation, the most Important, and of the greatest Consequence of any they have in the *Indies*. The frequent Quibbles of the *Moorish* Governours, is the Reason why the Company cannot drive a free Trade in that Country, but are obliged to make these Trade-Contracts with some certain Persons, and even to trust them with the greatest Part of their Commodities all at once, because of the Liberty and Easiness with which they Sell or Truck with the Natives of the Country, and much more advantageously than our People can do. These Dealers enter also into Societies amongst themselves, and gain much more than our People; and this is one of the chief Reasons that the Company could not get these sort of Contracts with the *Moorish* Merchants executed, for vending their Linnens in *Siam* and other Countries.

The last Advices from *Coromandel*, told us that our People were very uneasy at the Approach of the Great *Mogul's* Army, who having made himself Master of the Kingdom of *Visapore*, several Politicians, and People of good Understanding, believed he had an Intention, in like manner, to subdue *Golconda*. Time will show this, tho' it be much to be wish'd for the Good of the Company, who will then have a free Commerce, which to  
them

them will be of the greatest Benefit and Advantage.

## C E T L A N

Is a great Island, separated from the South-side of *Coromandel* only by a small Arm of the Sea: It is very Famous on the Account of the vast Quantities of Cinnamon it produces; 'twas this Spice which tempted the *Portugueze*, to conquer this Island first of all, and after them the Company became Masters of it; that is, of the lower Part, and of the Coasts round about, the Highlands continuing still in Subjection to the King of *Candi*, whom neither the *Portugueze*, nor our People, could ever conquer, by reason of the impassable Ways of that Part of the Country he is Master of, and other Difficulties attending such an Undertaking: This Prince contents himself to be always on the Defensive, in regard of the Company, which some believe is by Reason of his great Age, which has given the Opportunity to our People to gather their Crops of Cinnamon without any Trouble or Impediment; but many are of Opinion (and with good Reason) that this Happiness will not continue long, and that the Prince that succeeds the old King, will take up Arms, and disturb the Commerce and the Possessions of the Company.

ny in that important Island, the Truth of which time can only discover.

The Expense of the Company is very considerable in Pensions to some Towns, maintaining of Forts, Passages, Fortifications, Commandants, Officers, Garrisons, and Commissaries for the Inspection of Trade, &c. This takes off a considerable Part of the Company's Profit, which may be easily retrieved by retrenching several Posts, useles Garrisons, and needles Officers; and no doubt it will be done in a small time after the Arrival of Commissioner *Wanrek* in that Island, who will soon discover a great many Abuses, and much ill Management thro' that important Government, and bring with him necessary Remedies for the good of the Company.

### M A L A B A R,

Of which the Capital City is *Cochin*, and ought to be look'd on as a Member very troublesome to the Company; for besides the many Inconveniencies, to which they are almost continually subject, from Princes of the neighbouring Islands, the keeping of only this City and its Dependencies, costs the Company every Year a far greater Sum than the Income and Revenue amounts to; insomuch that it may be truly said, they keep this Port for politick Considerations only.

## SURAT E,

Is a very profitable Magazine for the Company, there being a great Vent for all Sorts of Commodities, which are sold every Year with considerable Gain, and are Cloves, Nutmegs, Mace, Pepper, Copper, Tortoise Shell, Camphire, Vermilion, Benzoin, Orchalmy, or Alchymy, Tins, and Stuffs.

They have in Return for all these Commodities, several Sorts of Callicoes, coarse Silks, both white and painted, and other things of like Nature, but especially Silver Ingots to trade with in *Bengal*. This Country is in the Dominions of the Great *Mogul*, and we are here more subject to be disturb'd by the Moorish Governours, than at *Coromandel*. The restless Avarice of these Cormorants is no other way to be quieted, than by Presents, which swallow up good Part of the Company's Profits. They build here very good Ships, which do great Service; and it is certain, if the Company could have them built at a reasonable Price, it would be of great Use and Advantage to them, to build a good Number, the Timber of which they make them, being very strong, and lasting. They will hold out forty Years at least; and all the World knows, that the Vessels that are built in *Europe* last but twelve, or thirteen Years, at most; it is easy



easy to see by this what vast Difference there would be, if the Price was equal, or but somewhat more.

I doubt not but this may be done, and is a thing deserves well to be made an Experiment of, at the Return of Monsieur *Warnek*, and during his ordinary Residence in this Place.

## P E R S I A.

The Trade of the Company in this great Kingdom, is at present very peaceful and quiet; notwithstanding the Protestations that our People have often made, that they will not, for the time to come, take off such great Quantities of Silk, and this Dispute is not yet quite ended. The Company have often made Contracts with the *Indian* Princes, which have been very prejudicial, on Account of the Management, and little Experience of those that were employed in such Contracts. It would therefore be very much for the Benefit and Advantage of the common Cause, and for the Freedom of Trade; never more to employ and authorise such Persons in the like Negotiations, particularly, in the Courts of the *Moorish Mahometans*; at least they should make use of able Men, whose long approved Experience and Capacity might make them avoid the Deceits, and subtle Treachery of the *Moors*; for it is certain, that he that thinks to make any  
 Advan-

sudden Advantage, or surprize the eastern *Mahometans* in Trade, or Contracts made with them, must rise betimes in the Morning. Time will discover what Success this Affair of the Company will have, which is now in Debate. But this Court having been so dilatory, it is our Part to make Advances to bring this Matter to a Conclusion. Our Ambassadors have been detain'd a long while at the Court of *Persia*, to adjust this Affair, and I believe they will obtain nothing material thence ; for to make a quick Dispatch of Business with those People, you must from the very Beginning, as much as is possible, push Matters on with the utmost Vigour, which is the only Way to gain one's Point, and there have been many Examples of this Truth.

When Trade goes well in this Empire, the Company gains considerably, but it is only on the Goods they themselves cause to be brought hither.

## BATAVIA

Is the capital City of all the Territories and Dominions the Company has in the East Indies, and the Place of the Governour's general Residence. This City has been so much improved within these late Years, that at present it is very beautiful, large, and very regularly built, and altogether the Astonishment and Admiration of all Strangers that come in-

to these Parts. The Number of its Inhabitants encreases considerably every Year, which makes the Suburbs of a vast Extent, and the Country round about it is well cultivated, and abounds very much in Rice and Sugar; so that it is to be hoped, that this City will in a few Years make her self very considerable and famous for her prodigious Trade and Riches, besides the Pleasure she has at present to see, that by cultivating her Soil, she has wherewithal to furnish her Inhabitants with all Necessaries of Life; and by that means she may hereafter stand in no Occasion of Rice, which the Company was obliged to supply her from abroad, for her necessary Provisions, which will be the saving of vast Sums for the future.

In this Town is the general Magazine for all Commodities our People bring to the East *Indies*, and here they are sorted and distributed to all Places where they shall be thought necessary, which makes the Road of *Batavia* always full of Merchant Ships, out of which, upon Occasion, may be formed a very powerful Fleet, in Case of any Irruption that should casually happen, either against the City, or any Place about it; so that at all times they are ready to act, both on the Offensive and Defensive.

It is certain, that in *Batavia* there might be a very good Trade, and very advantageous for the Company, were it not continually weakened

kened, and even interrupted by other Traders, which is visible by the Diminution of the Sale of Linnens and other Goods for some time last past, contrary to the Hopes they entertained of a Change, which would be more advantageous than the last, to the Trade of *Batavia*, on Account of the great Privileges our People had obtained from *Suzan Honnan* on the Eastern Coast of *Java*, in acknowledgment of the Supplies that Prince receiv'd from the Company against his Rebel Subjects, to quell which Rebellion cost much Blood and Treasure; for it is no strange thing, that Subjects so rebellious as they were, should do a great deal of Mischief to the Trade of our People and the Company, because of those great Conveniences of having such a Number of good Ports and Havens all along the Eastern Coast, and by the vast Gain they there made, which induced them to cheat us as much as possibly they could.

Experience has shewn us, that the too great Extent of our Territories, and the too great Number of Maritime Places we have in the *East-Indies*, are ever attended with immense Charges, solid and always certain Expences at all times, whereas the Profits they bring are casual and very uncertain; which makes me believe, that in time the farther we go, the more clearly shall we see that the most compact Possessions are ever the best and most

profitable ; and besides, are more sure to be kept, less envied, and less subject to Revolutions, and give less Trouble and Vexation to those who govern them ; particularly if their Neighbours are warlike and perfidious : The Truth of this we have lately seen in the Case of Monsieur *Tack*, Ambassador of the Company, who departed for his Embassy attended with a good Number of Soldiers for that Purpose. No Body doubts but Prince *Honnan*, whom I just now mentioned, was guilty of that Violence, which is certainly a Piece of the greatest Perfidiousness, and the most ungrateful Return, from a Prince who ow'd to the Company (under God) his Life and Crown. This Misfortune may always serve as a Lesson to our People for their future Conduct in like Cases. Our Troops which were sent to those Parts to have Satisfaction for that Outrage, and to bring those Infidels to Reason, were still at *Japura*, without being able to do any thing ; *Sourapary* their Chief having retired out of the Territories of *Java*, into a Country whither 'twas impossible to follow him without Danger, it being to be feared, we should have a long War on that side, which would be a prodigious Expence, and very prejudicial to the Company and their Trade.



## BANTAN.

The Malecontents who are dissatisfied with the Government of the present King, attempted likewise a bold Enterprize against the Ministers of the Company residing in this Kingdom, having a Design to Massacre them all ; but this wicked Project was discovered some small time before it was designed to be put in Execution by a great many of those Villains ; so that that Design was not only prevented, but rooted entirely up by the Death of some of those principal Traytors ; and the King judged it proper, to prevent the like for the future, to send the old King his Father (who was then Prisoner at *Bantan*, and suspected to be acquainted with this pernicious Design ) to *Batavia*, to be secured in the Castle, where he now is, and is like to be as long as he lives, unless some unforeseen Change should happen, to which all Affairs of State, and particularly those of the *East-Indies* are most subject.

Most High and Mighty Lords,

**T**HESE are the principal Things relating to the present Condition of the Affairs of the famous Company in the Indies : My Zeal to serve those Gentlemen, and my Duty having obliged me to give you this faithful Account, I presume to say, that there are many things

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in those Parts, one would desire should be otherwise, which have great Occasion of being redress'd.

Notwithstanding, generally speaking, Trade prospers very well there, for which we ought to thank the Almighty, and earnestly pray him to bless and strengthen his great Work of the Dutch Company in the East Indies, for the perpetual Good and Prosperity of the State.

I have only this to add, that after living there thirty five Years, I have at last obtained my being recalled from the East Indies, upon my repeated Instances, that I may return to my dear Country, it having pleased the high Regency of the Indies, to confer on me the Command of the Fleet of the Company, in my Return, and with which I left the Road of Batavia the 29th Day of November, 1696, with six Ships, the Names of which are, as follows, viz. Castrikan, Schelde, Oestreland, Honslaerdick, Spardick, and the Gilded Wane, and came to Anchor the first of December following before Bantan, this Place being appointed for us to wait for the Books and Papers, which could not be got ready before we set Sail, and which came to us the 25th Day of the same Month. But as the Harvest of the West was then past, we were forced to struggle against Wind and Tide in the Streights of the Sonde, with a great deal of Danger, till the 4th of Janu-

January, 1697, when we happily passed the Streights of Java, and Prince Island, and sailed in open Sea, continuing our Voyage without any Inconveniency, or Stop, till we arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, where we happily came to Anchor, the 20th and 21st Day of March, in the same Year 1697, with all our Vessels, and with them four others that came from the Isle of Ceylan, viz. The Isle Schonen, Pevissland, Woorschotten, and Languervich. We likewise found in that Road, the Alkmaar and Cressembourg, which happily arrived from Coromandel, and waited for us a long while at the Cape: Some little time after, we saw come into that Road, the Fleet Mesmeleheder, from Bengal, consisting of 13 Vessels.

I can assure your High Mightinesses, that the Port of the Cape is very well situated, and as important as necessary, both for those Ships that go to, and those that return from the Indies: It is a sure Refuge, and a very convenient Place for refitting and cleaning Shipping, and to furnish them with all necessary Provisions: The Air is extremely wholesome, and here the sick recover their Health. Here are all Sorts of good Herbs and Fruits in Abundance, excellent Beef and Mutton, and in vast Plenty; and by the Care of the present Governour, there is a vast Increase of both these Sorts of Cattel, and the Earth so well manured, that this Place at present can subsist with its own Corn, and fur-

nish its Inhabitants with necessary Provisions without any foreign Assistance, and is in hopes in a little time to have such Quantities, as may also supply other Places. It is great Pity that so large and fertile a Country, situated in a very happy Climate, should be almost uninhabited, where Millions of Souls might very conveniently subsist, as being in a Place abounding with all Necessaries of Life, and where they might mutually assist each other.

We staid there till the 9th of April, in the same Year 1697, when we sailed with a favourable Wind from Tafel-Bay; we accordingly passed the great Ocean, and had the good Fortune to finish our Voyage very successfully without any unhappy Accident at all; this was on the 17th of August, in the Year 1698, when we arrived in this Country with the whole Fleet, and the same Day every Vessel came into the Port they were ordered to, with the greatest and richest Return that ever came from the Indies into this Country; for which Blessing I shall never cease giving Praise and Thanks to the Almighty, and beseech him that he would encrease the Honour and Glory of the Republick, and this illustrious and powerful Company, that it would please Him to take it into his Holy Protection, and encrease its Commerce more and more in all the Climates of the habitable World.







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